

ADMINISTRATIVE POLICIES OF THE MILWAUKEE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

ADMINISTRATIVE POLICY 7.16 ALTERNATIVE SCHOOLS AND PROGRAMS

(1) GENERAL PRINCIPLES

(a) Milwaukee Public Schools students represent a wide range of cultural, ethnic, and social backgrounds, and their needs differ from school to school as well as within a single school.

(b) In response to these needs, the Board may periodically approve the establishment of an alternative school for high school students. a variety of alternatives to the regular school program. Such alternatives may include, but shall not necessarily be limited to, program improvements developed by the staffs of individual schools.

(c) All proposals for alternative schools and programs shall be presented by the superintendent to the Board for its consideration and action.

(d) The superintendent may approve alternative programs meeting the standards for alternative programs for high school students.

(2) DEFINITIONS

(a) State law defines students who are at risk of not graduating high school as pupils who are dropouts or who meet two or more of the following:

1. One or more years behind their age group in the number of high school credits attained.
2. Two or more years behind their age group in basic skill levels.
3. Habitual truants, as defined in §118.16 (1) (a).
4. Parents.
5. Adjudicated delinquents.

(b) State law defines a dropout as a student who:

1. has ceased to attend school, i.e., has been absent without acceptable excuse for 20 consecutive school days and has not formally withdrawn from school, and
2. does not attend a public or private, technical college, home-based private Educational Program on a full-time basis, and
3. has not graduated from high school.

(3) STANDARDS FOR ALTERNATIVE PROGRAMS

(a) Alternative Programs in Milwaukee Public Schools authorized by the Superintendent must meet the following minimum standards:

1. Provides a chance for students to learn and assess learning.
2. Is operated to facilitate high school graduation.
3. Must have an approved calendar that meets a minimum of fifty percent of the traditional high school day, be agreed upon by the parent and student, and report the minutes of instruction to the Department of Public Instruction.
4. May only occur within the hours of a traditional school day.
5. Provide proper accommodations must be provided for English Learners, students with 504 plans, and students with disabilities that are enrolled in a program.
6. If the program chooses to not use the district approved curriculum, the recommended curriculum and assessments must be submitted to the Senior Director of Curriculum and Instruction for review and approval at least 30 days before the program begins.
7. Enrollment of students must be no more than ten percent of the total school population.

8. Will be subject to specific district reporting requirements.
- (b) Students interested in participating in an alternative program must adhere to the following:
1. Be assessed and reviewed by the Department of College and Career Readiness prior to enrollment.
 2. Both the students and parents agree in writing prior to student enrollment.
 3. Participate in a face-to-face meeting with a school designee and parent/student to review the program and expectations prior to enrollment.
 4. Must successfully meet the district standards in the content areas and provide evidence of learning or a district approved assessment at the end of the course as evidence of learning.
 5. Meet the alternative program graduation requirements identified in Administrative Procedure 7.37: Graduation Requirements.

(c) Students in traditional schools may not take courses through alternative programs for credit attainment.

(4) STANDARDS FOR ALTERNATIVE SCHOOLS

(a) Alternative Schools in Milwaukee Public Schools authorized by the Board of Directors must meet the following minimum standards:

1. Provide a chance for students who are at-risk to learn and assess learning.
2. Must offer course work outside of alternative programs for students at-risk who may not qualify for an alternative program.
3. May offer approved district alternative programs to students assessed and reviewed by the Department of College and Career Readiness prior to enrollment into the alternative program.
4. Must have an approved calendar that meets a minimum of fifty percent of the traditional high school day, be agreed upon by the parent and student, and report the minutes of instruction to the Department of Public Instruction.
5. May only occur within the hours of a traditional school day.
6. Will be subject to specific district reporting requirements.

(b) Students who meet the state definition of a student at-risk of not graduating high school may enroll in an alternative school.

(c) Students will meet the alternative school graduation requirements identified in Administrative Procedure 7.37: Graduation Requirements.

(5) REPORTS ON ALTERNATIVE SCHOOLS AND PROGRAMS

The Administration shall provide the Board with an routine monthly annual written report on prior year data alternative education enrollments, to include:

- (a) the capacity and current enrollment of each of the Milwaukee Public Schools alternative schools, alternative programs, and partnership programs;
- (b) current vacancies for at-risk students in each program number of students known to be continuing;
- (c) monthly attendance percentage for each program number of students graduating.

History: Codified 1976; adopted 1-6-76; revised 2-3-76, 1982, 9-28-83, 1984, 2-22-95; 11-21-24
Previous Coding: Admin. Policy IGBH, prior to May 1995; Admin. Policy 9.16, May 1995-August 1996
Legal Ref.: W.S. 118.15, 118.16, 119.28, 119.30
Cross Ref.: Admin. Policy 1.04 Nondiscrimination
 7.37 Graduation Requirements

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