Alternative Schools/Programs of Choice

Adopted: 02/16/2010 **| Last Revised**: 05/05/2026 **| Last Reviewed**: 05/05/2026

The Board of Education desires to provide a variety of innovative educational programs to accommodate students' diverse learning needs and interests, foster student engagement in the schools, and enhance student achievement. Toward this end, the Board may establish and maintain alternative schools or programs of choice.

A district alternative school or program of choice may differ from the traditional educational program in its academic emphasis, sequence of curriculum, educational philosophy, instructional strategy, structure, setting, size, scheduling, targeted student population, decision-making process, and/or other components. All alternative schools or programs of choice shall offer enrolled students the opportunity to acquire the knowledge and skills necessary to achieve district content standards in core academic subjects and shall provide access to the course of study required for high school graduation.

Any staff member, parent/guardian of any student, or other interested person may request the Board to establish an alternative school or program of choice. The Superintendent or designee shall establish procedures and criteria for reviewing proposals. Based on such criteria, the Superintendent or designee shall evaluate all proposals received and may present a recommendation to the Board for action.

As necessary to provide flexibility to alternative schools or programs of choice to improve student performance and/or streamline operations, the Superintendent or designee may request that the Superintendent of Public Instruction waive any provision of the Education Code except provisions specified in Education Code 58509.

The Superintendent or designee shall establish processes to ensure communication among staff in the alternative schools or programs of choice and staff in the regular educational program in order to share information and ideas.

Policy Reference Disclaimer:
These references are not intended to be part of the policy itself, nor do they indicate the basis or authority for the Board to enact this policy. Instead, they are provided as additional resources for those interested in the subject matter of the policy.

Legal References:

STATE

CALIFORNIA CODE OF REGULATIONS
5 CCR 10070-10075 Work experience education
5 CCR 10080-10092 Community classrooms
5 CCR 10100-10111 Cooperative vocational education
5 CCR 1635 Credit for work experience education

EDUCATION CODE
35208 Liability insurance
46144 Minimum school day for work experience program
46147 Exception for minimum day; students in last semester or quarter of grade 12
46300 Method of computing average daily attendance
48402 Enrollment in continuation education; minors not regularly employed
48980.5 Notification of apprenticeship and pre-apprenticeship programs
49110-49119 Permits to work

49160 Permits to work; duties of employer
51760-51769.5 Work experience education
52055.770 Quality Education Investment Act of 2006
52300-52462 Career technical education
52372.1 Community classrooms and cooperative career technical education programs
54690-54697 Partnership academies
56026 Individual with exceptional needs; definition
LABOR CODE
1285-1312 Employment of minors
1391-1394 Working hours for minors
3070-3099.5 Apprenticeships
3200-6002 Workers' compensation and insurance
FEDERAL
UNITED STATES CODES
20 USC 2301-2414 Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act
29 CFR 570.35a Work experience programs
MANAGEMENT RESOURCES
CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS PUBLICATION
Child Labor Laws, 2013
CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PUBLICATIONS
California State Plan for Career Technical Education, 2023
Work Experience Education Guide
California Career Technical Education Model Curriculum Standards, 2013
Technical Education Framework for California Public Schools, Grades Seven Through Twelve, January 2007
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
Training and Employment Guidance Letter, No. 10-23, Change 2, July 2025
WESTED PUBLICATION
Work-Based Learning in California: Opportunities and Models for Expansion, 2009
WEBSITES
California Division of Apprenticeship Standards https://www.dir.ca.gov/das/
CSBA District and County Office of Education Legal Services https://legalservices.csba.org/
Linked Learning Alliance http://www.linkedlearning.org/
California Association of Work Experience Educators http://www.cawee.org/
California Department of Education, Work Experience Education http://www.cde.ca.gov/ci/ct/we
California Department of Industrial Relations http://www.dir.ca.gov/
WestEd http://www.wested.org/
CSBA http://www.csba.org/

Policy Adopted: 02/16/2010
Revised: 05/05/2026