EASTCONN
Where Learning Comes to Life

INSTRUCTION
Series 6000
Policy #6017.31.1

Alternative Education Programs

The purpose of this policy is to recognize the need for alternative education programs for some EASTCONN students.

The EASTCONN Board of Directors is dedicated to providing educational options for all students within available financial constraints. It is recognized there will be students in EASTCONN schools whose needs and interests are best served by participation in an alternative education program.

"Alternative education" means a school or program maintained and operated by the EASTCONN Board of Directors that is offered to students in a nontraditional educational setting and addresses the social, emotional, behavioral and academic needs of such students.

The EASTCONN Board of Directors may provide alternative education to students in accordance with the guidelines established by the State Board of Education. Such guidelines shall include, but not be limited to, a description of the purpose and expectation of alternative education, criteria for student eligibility, and criteria for how and when a student may enter or exit alternative education.

In providing alternative education to students, the EASTCONN Board of Directors may use space in an existing school or establish a new school. Such programs must comply with state laws pertaining to the number and length of school days in an academic year and shall be subject to all other federal and state laws governing public schools.

The EASTCONN Board of Directors may form a cooperative arrangement with other boards of education, to provide alternative education pursuant to C.G.S. 10-158a.

Such an arrangement may include the establishment of a committee to supervise the program, with committee membership determined by cooperating boards. Such committee shall have the power, in accordance with the terms of the agreement, to (1) apply for, receive directly and expend on behalf of the agency schools which have designated the committee an agent for such purpose any state or federal grants which may be allocated to agency schools, for specified programs, the supervision of which has been delegated to such committee, provided such grants are payable before implementation of any such program or are to reimburse the committee for transportation provided to a school operated by a cooperative arrangement; (2) receive and disburse funds appropriated to the use of such committee by the cooperating school districts, the

state or the United States, or given to the committee by individuals or private corporations; (3) hold title to real or personal property in trust, or as otherwise agreed to by the parties, for the appointing boards; (4) employ personnel; (5) enter into contracts; and (6) otherwise provide the specified programs, services and activities. Teachers employed by any such committee shall be subject to the provisions of the general statutes applicable to teachers employed by EASTCONN in any school.

A list of alternative programs will be approved by the EASTCONN Board of Directors annually. The Executive Director may provide for the involvement of staff, parents and the community in recommending alternative education programs for EASTCONN Board of Directors approval. There shall be an annual evaluation of alternative education programs.

The EASTCONN Board of Directors, as required, will post on its website information about any alternative education offered, including purpose, location, contact information, staff directory and enrollment criteria. In addition, the EASTCONN Board of Directors recognizes its responsibility to give all children in the Agency who receive alternative education as nearly equal advantages as may be practicable compared to other children in the Agency. In addition, the EASTCONN Board of Directors shall annually submit to the Commissioner of Education a strategic school profile report for each alternative school or program under its jurisdiction.

Alternative education programs implemented by the Agency are to maintain learning options that are flexible with regard to environment, structure and pedagogy. Such programs include, but are not limited to, a separate school, tutorial instruction, small group instruction, large group instruction, counseling and guidance, computer-assisted instruction, cooperative work experience, supervised community service activities and supervised independent study.

Students, upon parent request, may be placed in an alternative education program within available financial resources if the Agency determines that the placement serves the student's educational needs and interests and assists the student in achieving agency and state academic content standards.

(cf. 6007.1.1 - Title I Programs)

(cf. 6002.1.1 - Distance Education Online Courses)

Legal Reference Connecticut General Statutes

10-4p(b) Implementation plan to achieve resource equity and equality of opportunity. Assessment. Reports. (as amended by PA 15-133)

10-15 Towns to maintain schools.

10-16 Length of school year.

10-158a Cooperative arrangements among towns. School building projects. Student transportation.

10-220 Duties of boards of education (as amended by PA 15-133)

10-223h(c) Commissioner's network of schools. Turnaround committees.

Operations and instructional audit. Turnaround plans. Report. (as amended by PA 15-133)

PA 15-133 An Act Concerning Alternative Education

Adopted: March 2023 Board Meeting
Revised:
Replaces: 6017.31.1