

ALTERNATIVE PROGRAMS

Alternative programs are defined as provisions within the public education system which offer major choices among diverse educational environments based on student needs, talents and interests; occupy a significant proportion of an individual student's time; and meet the District's philosophy and objectives.

The School Committee values alternative programs as a means of meeting the needs of all learners. The Committee encourages administrative and teaching staff to serve as mentors to individual students and to help design and provide independent studies, internships, co-enrollment college programs, and/or distance learning (such as the Virtual High School).

Any program shall have been discussed with the Administration and must receive its endorsement prior to development.

Alternative programs shall observe all policies and regulations that govern all of the schools and programs of the District unless specifically waived by the School Committee.

Proposals for alternative programs must include a design for evaluating the effectiveness in achieving the purposes of the program and determining the extent to which it is successful in achieving the philosophy and objectives of the District. Alternative programs will be reviewed and evaluated annually for the first three years with a recommendation to the School Committee as to continuation of the programs.

Through regular reporting and the budget development process, administration shall keep the School Committee apprised of alternative programs that are being considered for implementation. Any programs that require contracting with outside agencies shall require formal School Committee approval.

Approved: February 22, 2010