

Alternative Education Programs

According to State Board Policy 2418, an alternative education program is a temporary authorized departure from the regular school program designed to provide educational and social development for students whose disruptive behavior places them at risk of not succeeding in the traditional school structure and in adult life without positive interventions.

The purpose of this policy is to: (1) provide a safe and orderly environment for the education of all students in the public schools of Tyler County and (2) better meet the educational needs of disruptive and/or uncooperative students who need additional support through alternative education programs. Therefore, this policy is designed to assist school staff in their efforts to provide an educational environment which meets the needs of all students.

Tyler County Schools will operate an alternative education program for students in the middle (6-8) and high school (9-12) grade levels. The following represents the design, process and procedures for the delivery of alternative education services:

I. Alternative Learning Opportunity Program (ALOP)

Definition

ALOP is an alternative education program that is an authorized departure from the regular school program. It is designed to provide academic and social development for disruptive or uncooperative students who are not succeeding in the traditional school program.

Purpose

We believe that through the placement of disruptive or non-cooperative students in the alternative setting we are providing these students with an educational opportunity and setting that enhances these students' probability of success. We also believe that by placing these students in the alternative setting we are enhancing the education of students in the traditional classes by removing the disruptive influences that occupy teachers' time and attention.

Program Goals

The Alternative Learning Opportunity Program is designed to assist students in

- Remaining in School
- Improving attendance
- Improving academic achievement levels in core academic classes
- Improving self-concept by experiencing success in social and academic endeavors
- Improving self-control
- Preparing for readmission into the traditional school program

Eligibility Criteria

Students may be eligible for placement and participation in the Alternative Learning Opportunity Program if they disrupt the traditional school environment, do not follow school rules and policy and/or place another individual in an unsafe or disorderly situation.

Facility/Location

The Alternative Learning Opportunity Program will be located at Tyler Consolidated in a classroom that will accommodate the use of technology in the delivery of a portion of the core academic curriculum.

Locating the classroom at Tyler Consolidated allows the ALOP instructor to collaborate with other staff members. Such location also provides for a smooth transition back to the traditional classroom.

While the student is participating in the ALOP, he/she will be located in a classroom for students in the alternative education setting. These ALOP students will report directly to their classroom upon arrival at school. They will eat meals and take restroom breaks at times other than the traditional students.

Transportation

Students will be permitted to ride the bus to and from the Alternative Learning Opportunity Program as long as they are not placed in the alternative setting due to an issue which took place on the bus. If the issue took place on the bus, transportation will have to be provided to and from the alternative setting.

Curriculum and Instruction

The core academic program shall be based upon the West Virginia Content Standards and Objectives. A certified teacher will deliver and facilitate instruction, utilizing grade level material based on the course being taken, while also being in consultation with regular instructional personnel. Additionally, technology will be utilized when needed.

The overall instructional program shall be:

- Consistent with the students' developmental level
- Facilitated by materials which are course level appropriate
- Characterized by individualized pacing to accommodate the entry and exit of students.
- Reflective of high expectations
- Delivered in a climate conducive to learning
- Supported by sufficient material, supplies and equipment

Students will be able to complete both core and elective course work while placed in the alternative setting. However, if an elective course requires the student to complete assignments which require lab activities the ALOP teacher and teacher of record will work together to explore other activities which will allow the student to receive credit for the elective course. If alternate activities are not possible, the student will have to forfeit the credit for the particular elective course.

High school students who attend the ALOP program will be counted absent from their classes. Tyler County Policy: IT (High School Semester Exams) will be followed to determine if the student is required to take end of course exams.

Support Services

Counseling services for students will be available through the school counselor.

Counseling personnel and students will address issues such as:

- Personal responsibility
- Importance and relevance of satisfactory grades
- Importance of education
- Motivation

Students who received special education services will continue to be provided the modifications and accommodations listed in their Individualized Education Program. The ALOP teacher will be responsible for collaborating with the special education caseload teacher to verify appropriate modification and accommodations are being provided to the student.

A representative for Vocational Rehabilitation is contracted one day a week to be at Tyler Consolidated. The representative will meet with students who are age eligible to determine if services are available to the students through the agency. If services are available, the representative will work with the students and/or family to complete the proper steps to begin the services.

Program Progress and Completion

Students who are placed in the alternative setting for a specific number of days will return to the traditional classroom after they have served the assigned number of days. If a student is absent from school on one of their assigned days, they will be required to make up days missed. If the absence is unexcused the student will receive zeros for all graded assignments. If the absence is excused, the student will be given grades for completed assignments.

For students placed in the alternative setting for more than 10 consecutive days due to a Level IV violation, a meeting will be convened to review the student's progress at the end of each grading period. Included in the meeting will be the principal, and /or assistant principal, counselor, grade level teacher(s), parent(s), appropriate school/county support personnel, the student, and the ALOP teacher. The team will review student data and information and will

determine if the student is ready to re-enter the traditional classroom at the end of each semester.

Students who are placed in the alternative setting are not permitted to attend extracurricular functions. They will be permitted on school grounds only during instructional hours. Students will not be permitted to attend school sponsored activities such as dances, athletic events, and/or any other activity which takes places during their assigned time in the alternative setting.

PROGRAM SPECIFICS

Specifics of the Tyler County Schools Alternative Education programs can be found in the Tyler County Administrative Procedures Manual.

REFERENCE: State Board Policy: 2418 - Regulations for Alternative Education Programs for Disruptive Students

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