

Policy No: 605.04
Adopted: 07-13-2015
Revised: 10-8-2018

PROGRAM FOR AT-RISK STUDENTS/ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION

The board recognizes some students require additional assistance in order to graduate from the regular education program. The board shall provide a plan to encourage and provide an opportunity for at-risk students to achieve their potential and obtain their high school diploma.

It shall be the responsibility of the superintendent to develop a plan for students at-risk which provides for identifying students, for program evaluation, and for the training of employees.

The superintendent or designee may internally develop or contract with another entity to provide, an alternative education program designed to meet the needs of at-risk students, including but not limited to students who have been expelled from school, are serving long term suspension, or have demonstrated a pattern of disciplinary infractions. Students may be required to participate in the alternative education program if recommended by the principal and approved by superintendent. Student progress status in the alternative education program and the appropriateness of the placement will be reviewed at the end of each semester by the principal and a recommendation will be made to the superintendent as to whether the student would most benefit from remaining in an alternative education program or re-entering the regular education program.

The alternative education program will be aimed at facilitating progress towards student learning and the student earning credits toward meeting district graduation requirements. The alternative education program may take place in an alternate setting and have alternate or abbreviated hours as determined appropriate to meet school objectives and student needs.

In the case of students that have been expelled from school, in accordance with NDE Rule 17, the school district shall establish an alternative education program that shall include an individualized learning program to enable the student to continue academic work for credit toward graduation.

According to Rule 17, 003.01A: The alternative school, class, or program for expelled students may be provided by the district, through a cooperative arrangement of two or more districts, or through an arrangement with an educational service unit.

According to Rule 17, 003.01B: Alternative schools, classes, or programs for expelled students may include community-based programs, home-based programs, specialized tutorial experiences, distance-learning, or other programs approved by the local board of education.

According to Rule 17, 003.01C: The school, class, or program for expelled students shall enable the student to continue academic work for credit, and shall also include the standard of student behavior and cooperation required of the student to complete the alternative learning program.

According to Rule 17, 003.01D: If the student fails to meet any of the conditions of the learning program, the district may, without further obligation, terminate the program after a due process hearing, as required in statutory provisions for suspension and expulsion of students, unless waived by the parent or legal guardian.

Policy No: 605.04
Adopted: 07-13-2015
Revised: 10-8-2018

According to Rule 17, 003.02: The school district shall have a written policy or plan describing how credit is awarded to students participating in alternative schools, classes, or programs for expelled students.

Accordingly, this policy sets forth that students will earn credit in an alternative educational program when they receive a passing grade (grade higher than an 'F') for classes in which they are enrolled. If deemed appropriate by the superintendent upon recommendation of the principal, the alternative education program may involve students working towards earning credits towards meeting graduation requirements through distance-learning whereby students complete work for school approved computer-based class modules at home. In these cases, the substitution of classes towards meeting district graduation requirements may be made at superintendent discretion upon recommendation from the principal. In the event that other programs are utilized, the school will inform students what alternative programs are available and how credits will be earned.

According to Rule 17, 003.03: The school district shall make known to expelled students what alternative school(s), class(es), or program(s) is (are) available. If the parent or guardian should refuse to participate, the district has no further obligation with regard to provision of an alternative school, class, or program.

Cross Reference: 608.01 Student Guidance and Counseling Program
611 Academic Achievement