

POLICY

THE BOARD SUPPORTS EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES IN A SYSTEM THAT IS FLEXIBLE AND PROVIDES A VARIETY OF LEARNING PROGRAMS AND MODES OF DELIVERY. THE BOARD WILL CONSIDER ALTERNATIVE PROGRAMS WHICH EMPHASIZE A PARTICULAR LANGUAGE, CULTURE, RELIGION, SUBJECT-MATTER, OR USES A PARTICULAR TEACHING PHILOSOPHY.

GUIDELINES

1. When considering the addition or expansion of programs, the administration shall address factors such as:
 - Rationale for program or course, including a description of unique features;
 - Intended student learning outcomes;
 - Degree of demand;
 - Availability of staff and instructional resources;
 - Impact on financial and human resources, and facilities;
 - Impact on current program offerings;
 - Consistency with sound educational theory and practice;
 - Consistency with board policies
 - Consistency with the *School Act* and Alberta Education's policies.
2. When considering the deletion or reduction of alternative programs, the administration shall address factors such as:
 - Degree of demand;
 - Student achievement;
 - Impact on financial and human resources, and facilities;
 - Availability of staff and resources

REGULATIONS

1. The proposal for an alternative program can be developed by division office administration, school administration or School Council
2. A proposal developed by a school administration or School Council shall address the factors delineated in Guideline (1), and be submitted to the Superintendent at least four months prior to anticipated implementation date. The proposal shall also include a description of a mechanism or strategy for ongoing review of the program

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3. The Board shall review the proposal and may, by motion, approve the alternative program.
4. If the Board refuses to establish an alternative program as requested, the board shall, within sixty days of receiving the request, provide a copy of its decision, with reasons, to the applicant.
5. If a board approves a proposal for the establishment of an alternative program, the board should communicate the decision, in writing, to the applicant along with any special terms or conditions determined by the Board.
6. If a parent enrolls a student in an alternative program, the board may charge that parent fees for the purpose of defraying costs incurred for the program that are in addition to the costs in providing its regular education program.
7. The operations and program delivery of an alternative program shall be consistent with Board policy.