
HORIZON SCHOOL DIVISION**POLICY HANDBOOK**

Policy Code: HGBHA
Policy Title: Alternative Programs
Cross Reference:
Legal Reference: *Education Act*, 19
Alberta Ed. Policy 1.1.5
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**Amendment or Re-
Affirmation Date:**

POLICY

THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF HORIZON SCHOOL DIVISION 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 MATER, 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 *Education 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 councils.
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 the anticipated implementation date. The proposal shall also include a description of a mechanism or strategy for ongoing review of the program.

Policy HGBHA – *Alternative Programs*, Cont'd.

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.