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Title 28 EDUCATION

Part CXLIX. Bulletin 131—Alternative Education Schools/Programs Standards

Chapter 1. General Provisions

§101. Mission and Purpose

A. Exemplary alternative education develops a guiding mission and purpose that drives the overall operation of the program. All stakeholders (i.e., administrators, community representatives, parents/guardians, staff, and students) share in developing, implementing, directing and maintaining the mission and purpose. The mission and purpose include the identification of the target student population and promotion of the success of all students. Additionally, the mission and purpose embody high expectations for academic achievement, along with the nurturing of positive social interactions between staff and students.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:100.5.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, LR 37:2126 (July 2011).

Chapter 3. Support Services

§301. Leadership

A. Alternative education shall employ passionate, innovative, competent, and experienced leadership that has administrative and bureaucratic autonomy, as well as operational flexibility.

1. The administrators, teachers, and staff shall be committed to full implementation of alternative education's mission and core values.

2. Onsite leadership shall utilize and engage in a collaborative approach that ensures shared decision-making, high expectations for alternative education services, and continuous monitoring of quality.

3. The superintendent or designated district administrator shall sustain the independence of alternative education and allocate sufficient resources (i.e., financial or other necessary resources) to protect its integrity while supporting overall quality.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:100.5.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, LR 37:2127 (July 2011).

Chapter 5. Learning Environment

§501. Safety and Counseling

A. Alternative education shall maintain a safe, caring, and orderly climate and culture that promotes collegial relationships among students, parents/guardians, and program staff.

1. The culture and climate shall be characterized by a positive rather than punitive atmosphere for behavioral management and student discipline that encourages academic, behavioral, and social success.

2. Alternative education staff shall establish clear expectations for learning and student conduct.

3. The staff shall actively model and reward appropriate student behavior.

4. Alternative education shall use proven practices such as positive behavior support to organize student support systems.

5. Counseling services shall be responsive and focus on helping students who face obstacles that interfere with their personal/social, career, or educational development.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:100.5.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, LR 37:2127 (July 2011).

Chapter 7. Employee Qualifications

§701. Staffing and Professional Development

A. Alternative education shall be staffed with effective, innovative, and qualified individuals trained in current research-based teaching methods that facilitate active learning. Written professional development shall:

1. identify staff training needs;

2. match needs to relevant training;

3. emphasize quality implementation of research-based and best practices; and

4. establish performance evaluations aimed at improving program and student outcomes and overall program quality.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:100.5.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, LR 37:2127 (July 2011).

Chapter 9. Individualized Student Learning Plan

§901. Curriculum and Instruction

A. Alternative education shall:

1. maintain high academic expectations for students across academic, behavioral, life skill, service coordination, transitional, and career and technical education domains;

2. integrate a creative and engaging curricula and instructional methods that are relevant to the individual student's needs; and

3. use integrated, well organized framework of research-based curricula and teaching practices designed to address the whole student while continuing to meet or exceed federal and state standards.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:100.5.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, LR 37:2127 (July 2011).

Chapter 11. Progress Monitoring

§1101. Student Assessment

A. Alternative education shall include screening, progress monitoring, diagnostic and outcome-based measurements and procedures to improve short- and long-term results at the student level.

1. Student assessments shall be used to measure achievement and indentify specific learner needs.

2. The program shall exercise a research-based framework that values use of reliable measures to monitor student progress and adjust program services accordingly.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:100.5.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, LR 37:2127 (July 2011).

Chapter 13. Transition and Placement Process

§1301. Transitional Planning and Support

A. Alternative education shall have clear criteria and procedures for transitioning students from the traditional education setting to the alternative education setting, from the alternative education setting to the student's next education or workforce setting while ensuring timely access to community agencies and support services. This process calls for trained transitional personnel experienced in this particular area.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:100.5.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, LR 37:2127 (July 2011).

Chapter 15. Staff and Parent/Guardian Partnership

§1501. Parent/Guardian Involvement

A. Alternative education shall actively involve parents/guardians beyond parent/guardian-teacher meetings. The program shall emphasize a nonjudgmental, solution-focused approach that incorporates parents/guardians as respected partners throughout the student's length of stay.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:100.5.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, LR 37:2127 (July 2011).

Chapter 17. Community Representatives

§1701. Collaboration

A. Alternative education shall establish authentic partnerships with community resources based on trust, open communication, clearly defined goals, and shared responsibility which links the program, home, and community.

1. Collaborative partnerships shall promote opportunities for service learning, life skills, and career exploration for all students.

2. Community representatives shall have a role in the planning, resource development, and the decision-making process for alternative education.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:100.5.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, LR 37:2128 (July 2011).

Chapter 19. Data Collection and Analysis

§1901. Program Evaluation

A. Alternative education shall systematically conduct program evaluations using the monitoring tool for compliance and for continuous improvement.

B. Data triangulation shall be employed with three different sources of data collected for analysis. Data collection shall include the following items:

1. program implementation ratings;
2. student outcome data; and
3. student, parent/guardian, and staff surveys as mandated by Louisiana state law.

C. All sources of data shall be gathered and used to assess quality, provide a course for improvement, and to direct future activities. The guidelines presented herewith titled Alternative Education Standards, as well as state specific standards, shall serve as an appropriate means in which to evaluate the program.

D. Further information on full implementation can be found in the Louisiana Alternative Education Handbook found on the DOE website.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:100.5.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, LR 37:2128 (July 2011).