

Soda Springs School District No. 150 has elected to provide special instructional courses and services to eligible at-risk youth to enable them to earn a high school diploma via an alternative secondary program. The district's secondary alternative program will utilize course offerings, teacher/student ratios, and teaching strategies which are specially designed to serve the educational needs of at-risk youth.

QUALIFICATIONS FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE ALTERNATIVE PROGRAM

A student may qualify for participation in the alternative program if he/she meets the following criteria:

1. The student is a resident of the district and is eligible to attend grades seven through twelve (7-12).
2. The student meets three (3) of the following criteria:
 - a. Has repeated at least one (1) grade.
 - b. Was absent more than ten percent (10%) during the preceding semester.
 - c. Has an overall grade point average that is less than 1.5 on a 4.0 scale prior to enrolling in the alternative program.
 - d. Has failed one (1) or more academic subjects.
 - e. Is two (2) or more semester credits per year behind the rate required to graduate.
 - f. Is a Limited English Proficient (LEP) student who has not been in a program more than three (3) years.
3. Or the student meets one (1) of the following criteria:
 - a. Has substance abuse behavior.
 - b. Is pregnant or a parent.
 - c. Is an emancipated youth.
 - d. Is a previous dropout.
 - e. Has serious personal, emotional, or medical problems.
 - f. Is referred to the alternative program by a court or other governmental agency.

- g. Upon recommendation of the school district as determined by locally developed criteria for disruptive student behavior.

DISRUPTIVE STUDENT BEHAVIOR

Disruptive student behavior is behavior that continually interferes with school discipline or the instructional effectiveness of the school. Disruptive student behavior may include, but is not limited to:

1. Physically or verbally intimidating, threatening, abusing, or assaulting any person(s).
2. Consistently being disruptive or inappropriate in the regular school environment.
3. Stealing, destroying, or defacing district property or the property of another individual located at a school site.
4. Use, possession, and/or distribution of illegal or controlled substances on district grounds.
5. A history of multiple suspensions and/or expulsion(s).

PLACEMENT DETERMINATION

The evaluation and determination to place the disruptive student in the alternative school will be made by the district. In making the placement determination, the district will consider a student's qualification for participation in the alternative program based on the criteria identified above.

SPECIAL INSTRUCTION AND SERVICES

The district's alternative program will meet or exceed the state's minimum academic standards and will include instruction in language arts and communication, mathematics, science, and social studies. Additional instruction in the following components will be provided: personal and career counseling, physical fitness/personal health; state division approved vocational-technical; and child care with emphasis on parenting skills.

Graduation credit may be earned in the following areas: academic subjects, electives, and approved work-based learning experiences. Nonacademic courses, i.e., classroom and office aides, do not qualify for credit unless they are approved work-based learning experiences.

The district will provide special services, where appropriate, including a qualified day care center for parents who are students and direct social services that may include officers of the court, social workers, and counselors/psychologists.

LOCATION OF SERVICES

During the school year, the district's alternative high school programs will be located at a separate site from the regular high school facility or scheduled at a time different from the regular school hours.

**LEGAL REFERENCE:**

Idaho Code Sections

33-1002 – Educational Support Program

33-1002C – Summer School Program Support Units – Alternative Secondary School –
Juvenile Detention Facility

33-1002F – Alternative School Program

IDAPA 08.02.03.110 – Alternative Secondary Programs

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