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## District Learning Options

Beaverton is a diverse community with school-age students with a variety of learning styles, interests and aptitudes. Therefore, the District encourages the development of educational programs to respond to the needs of all students. Regular educational programs should be responsive to the vast majority of student needs within the District, but alternative, magnet or other educational options should be provided to support the success of all students.

An alternative program is defined as any educational program that represents a distinctive strategy or approach within the District for achieving or exceeding the educational goals defined in the School Board's philosophy statement, program goals and objectives of the District's required curriculum. An alternative program may share the facilities, administrative personnel, and the support services of another school, or may be an autonomous unit.

A magnet program provides students with a standard district education, but it also includes special learning opportunities in a particular discipline or a particular instructional approach. Magnet programs may integrate the discipline or instructional approach into all aspects of the school. Magnet programs are open to all students.

The School Board will determine whether to approve a proposed alternative or magnet program after considering the Superintendent's recommendation, along with the reports and recommendations from the District Cabinet and Instruction Division. The following will be used to evaluate a proposal to establish an alternative or magnet school.

1. The program must be an alternative or magnet program as defined in this policy.
2. There must be evidence of need and sufficient interest among staff, parents, and students to warrant establishment of the program as demonstrated through a formal assessment process, e.g. survey, focus groups, market study, etc.
3. The planned curriculum must conform to the State and District's educational goals and objectives and the required State and District curriculum standards.
4. The operational plan, including staffing, proposed location of the school and facility requirements, support services needed, the proposed timeline for establishing the school, program handbook including operational procedures must conform to applicable District policies and constitute an efficient use of District resources.
5. There must be evidence that establishment of the proposed school enhances the District's educational program and advances student achievement.

6. The proposed budget for the school must be appropriate for the program that is proposed and must represent an efficient use of District funds. Budget requests may include start-up costs to be paid by District 48J or to be solicited from other sources. "Start-up costs" are herein defined as those expenditures necessary to begin a new school, but which will not continue after the school becomes fully operational. Start-up costs may include, but are not necessarily limited to such items as purchase and/or renovation of facilities, purchase of an initial inventory of equipment and supplies, and payroll and travel expenses for program planning and inservice of staff.

7. Other than start-up costs approved for payment out of District funds, the District supported budget for an alternative or magnet school shall not exceed a range of District per-pupil costs of educating students unless the Board of Directors approves an express waiver. The cost of magnet, alternative and other educational options may be compared with total average District costs and/or component costs. Special education programs are exempt from this cost limitation as provided by law.

8. The criteria for selecting students for enrollment in the alternative or magnet school must not unfairly discriminate among applicants. Programs may be established to address certain populations of students.

9. The program is subject to all District Policies and Oregon Revised Statutes.

10. Grants or extra expenditures of revenue must be approved by the Superintendent or designee. Grants secured to be supplemental may provide for expenditures beyond the district average student cost. Grants expenditures intended to supplant must be accounted for within the per student cost.

11. Alternative, magnet and other District learning options must complete an annual report verifying the improvements of student performance, unless the program is accredited and/or completes an annual school improvement plan as required of all schools/programs in the District. Such reports are to be submitted to the Assistant Superintendent of Instruction. A program that does not demonstrate the improvement of student performance for two successive years, may be subject to an additional improvement plan, and a probationary period to improve. Closure will follow, if the improvement plan goals are not met in the specified timeline outlined in the plan.

12. Alternative or magnet programs can be developed to utilize non-traditional sites to respond to facility limitations or facility capacity limitations.

13. Alternative or magnet programs may serve the students at any grade level and may serve different grade configurations than elementary, middle or high schools traditionally serve.

14. Beaverton School District students will have preference for enrollment in such programs.

15. With the approval of the Superintendent or designee, out-of-district students may attend alternative or magnet programs if an interdistrict transfer is approved by the resident district and Beaverton School District. Tuition may be charged to out-of-district students when the interdistrict transfer is not approved. If a program has a waiver for differentiated spending, out-of-district students must pay the cost difference on a per student basis. Program capacity will be determined using Policy JD.

Exceptions to the capacity limitations may be made by the Superintendent or designee.

District alternative and magnet programs should enhance the continuum of educational services within the District.

END OF POLICY

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**Legal Reference(s):**

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Corrected 10/11/17