

ALTERNATIVE SCHOOLS

Descriptor	IHBHA	Issued	Draft 3/18/11
Rescinds *	IHBHA	Issued	02/27/2001
	IHBHA-E	Issued	07/01/1996

BOARD POLICY

1. The District will provide an alternative school programs or behavior modification program to serve school age students in the following categories:
 - 1.1. Any student who has been suspended for more than ten days or expelled from the regular school program, ~~except that placement in an alternative school may be denied for~~ any student expelled for possession of a weapon or other felonious conduct;
 - 1.2. Any student referred to ~~the~~ an alternative school program based upon a documented need for such placement by the parent, legal guardian or custodian of such student due to disciplinary problems;
 - 1.3. Any student referred by order of a chancellor or youth court judge, with the consent of the superintendent; and
 - 1.4. Any student whose presence in the classroom, in the determination of the superintendent or principal, is a disruption to the educational environment of the school or a detriment to the best interest and welfare of the students and teacher of such class as a whole.
2. Before a student may be removed to an alternative school, the superintendent, or designee, must determine that the District disciplinary policies are being followed. The due process rights of all students referred for placement in an alternative school will be specifically addressed in the placement process.
3. The alternative school program will be operated as a part of and in accordance with the regulations and policies applicable to the regular school program. The alternative school program shall meet minimum guidelines established by the State Board of Education (see attached exhibit).
4. A referral by a principal for placement in an alternative school program will follow procedural guidelines established by the Board and administration. The Board authorizes the administration to promulgate procedures and regulations consistent with this policy.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE

1. Assignments to an alternative school program will be made on a case-by-case basis in compliance with District policy and procedures.

~~The principal or program administrator of the alternative school shall require verification from the appropriate guidance counselor of any student referred regarding the suitability of the student for attendance at the alternative school.~~

2. When an administrator recommends a student for placement at an alternative school program, the administrator shall provide to the superintendent or designee:

- 2.1. Student's academic records;
- 2.2. Student's attendance records;
- 2.3. Student's complete discipline records;
- 2.4. All Responses to Intervention (RTI);
- 2.5. All Positive Behavior records (PBS); and
- 2.6. All written statements, including student's statement, concerning incident.

~~The superintendent or designee will consider recommendations for placement in the alternative school in accordance with the following:~~

- ~~1. Review all information provided from the initial informal hearing provided by the principal.~~
- ~~2. Request any additional information or conduct further investigations as may be necessary.~~
- ~~3. Determine if the recommendation of alternative school placement is appropriate.~~

3. If the superintendent or designee determines that placement in an alternative school program is appropriate, the following steps will be followed:

- 3.1. Written notice of a referral to an alternative school program will be provided to the parent/guardian of the student along with a statement of the due process rights of the student.
- 3.2. The parent/guardian may appeal a decision to place the student in an alternative school program. The appeal must be in writing and delivered to the superintendent or designee within three working days following the receipt of the notification of alternative school placement.
- 3.3. Upon receipt of a written appeal, a district disciplinary committee (DDC) hearing will be conducted no later than the tenth day following the date of the initial notification of referral to the alternative school program.
- 3.4. If a written appeal is not submitted in three working days by the parent, the student will be placed in the alternative school program.

4. Prior to the placement in an alternative school program, the superintendent or designee will verify the suitability of placement of a special education student for the program with the Director of Special Education. A manifest determination hearing shall be conducted for all special education students.

5. Any student who becomes involved in any criminal activity or violent behavior will be subject to immediate removal shall be removed from the alternative school program and if probable cause exists, a case shall be referred to the youth court.

EXHIBITS

IHBHA 1.0311 State Board of Education Guidelines for Alternative Schools

REFERENCES

MCA § 37-13-92

FORMS

None

***RESCINDS**

IHBHA Issued 02/27/2011

IHBHA-E Issued 07/01/1996

Recommend Elimination of IHBHA-E ALTERNATIVE SCHOOLS GUIDELINES (07/01/1996)
(This exhibit is StateBoard policy 901. I recommend we eliminate it as a Board pollicy. We can, however, attach it to the TPSD policy IHBHA as an exhibit for informational purposes.)

IHBHA 1.0311 ALTERNATIVE SCHOOLS GUIDELINES

1. The alternative program is defined through written board-approved policies and procedures that define and provide appropriate educational opportunities for the categories of students to be served. Further, the program must meet the requirements of Mississippi Code Section 37-13-92.
2. The district has and follows written procedures which meet Goss vs. Lopez due process requirements for removal of a student from school for disciplinary reasons.
3. The curriculum and instructional methodology address the needs of students through an Individual Instructional Plan which emphasizes academic performance, behavior modification, functional skills, and career orientation.
4. The student/teacher ratio in each classroom is no greater than 15:1 with a process for approving exceptions by the State Department of Education.
5. Adequate instructional staff is assigned to ensure the continuing education of students and classroom supervision at all times.
6. Certified teaching staff and other staff assigned to the alternative program have adequate credentials to achieve the stated mission of the program. Further, students assigned for a grading period or longer and receiving Carnegie unit credits will receive instruction from appropriately certified teachers.
7. When the alternative school program is housed in a free-standing facility separate from the regular school program, there is a certified administrator assigned to supervise the program.
8. When the alternative school program is housed in an existing school, the safety of regular staff and students will be insured by appropriate supervision and isolation as necessary.
9. When an alternative program is operated by two or more school districts, pursuant to a contract approved by the State Department of Education, the contract will indicate which school district will house and which district will operate the alternative education program.
10. Rules and regulations addressing the unique needs of alternative program students have been developed and disseminated to parents and students.
11. The alternative program facilities are clean, safe, and functional, and commensurate with facilities provided to other students by the local school district.

12. The school district is in compliance with applicable laws and State Department of Education guidelines for reporting information relating to the alternative program.
13. Cumulative records on each student placed in an alternative program remain at and maintained by the sending school.
14. Personnel assigned to an alternative program will report any criminal activity or other unlawful activity committed on school property to the appropriate authority.
15. Students enrolled in alternative programs/schools, including those provided through contractual agreements among multidistricts will participate in the Mississippi Assessment System at sites determined by District officials and in accordance with established guidelines regarding student grade levels and eligibility. Test results for these students will be reported in the home school district.
16. Evaluation of the student's progress will be conducted at regular intervals according to District policy and the appropriate records will be maintained and subject to the State Department of Education review.
17. The Individual Instructional Plan will provide for full-day attendance with a rigorous workload and minimal non-instructional time.
18. District may select programs from options provided by the local school district, the Mississippi Department of Human Services (Division of Youth Services) or the youth court, and/or transfer to a community-based alternative school.
19. Alternative programs will provide:
 - a) a motivated and culturally diverse staff
 - b) counseling for parents and students
 - c) administrative and community support for the program.
20. The District will complete an annual alternative program review and evaluation as directed by the State Department of Education.

Reference: State Board of Education, June 21, 1996