

**Purpose:**

In accordance with the Board's philosophy to provide a quality educational program to all students, the District shall provide an appropriate planned instructional program for all students who qualify for an Alternative Secondary Education program under applicable provisions of State and Federal law and/or this policy. The purposes of the program are:

1. To implement a high-quality and comprehensive educational program and to provide educational services during the school year and, as applicable, during summer or intersession periods, that addresses the unique educational needs of at-risk children.
2. To ensure that alternative education students who move frequently are not penalized in any manner by disparities among the states in curriculum, graduation requirements, and challenging state academic standards.
3. To ensure that alternative education students receive full and appropriate opportunities to meet the same challenging state academic standards that all students are expected to meet.
4. To help alternative education students overcome educational disruption, cultural and language barriers, social isolation, various health-related problems, and other factors that inhibit their ability to succeed in school.

**Alternative Secondary Education Programs:**

Alternative secondary programs are those that provide special instructional courses and offer special services to eligible at-risk youth to enable them to earn a high school diploma. Designated differences must be established between the alternative school programs and the regular secondary school programs. Alternative secondary school programs will include course offerings, teacher/pupil ratios and evidence of teaching strategies that are clearly designed to serve at-risk youth as defined in this section. ~~If the student was most recently enrolled in an alternative school, program (i.e. online, JDC), he/she will be placed at the alternative school for a minimum of one semester (two quarters). Student may transition to traditional school upon recommendation of school administration.~~

**Eligibility:**

An at-risk youth is any secondary student grade sixth through twelve who meets any three of the following criteria, Subsections (a) through (f), or any one of criteria in Subsections (g) through (m).

- a. Has repeated at least one grade.
- b. Has absenteeism that is greater than ten percent during the preceding semester.
- c. Has an overall grade point average that is less than 1.5 (4.0 scale) prior to enrolling in an alternative secondary program.
- d. Has failed one or more academic subjects in the past year.
- e. Is two or more semester credits per year behind the rate required to graduate or for grade promotion.

- f. Has attended three (3) or more schools within the previous two (2) years, not including dual enrollment.
- g. Has a documented or pattern of substance abuse behavior.
- h. Is pregnant or a parent.
- i. Is an emancipated or unaccompanied youth.
- j. Is a previous dropout.
- k. Has serious personal, emotional, or medical issue(s).
- l. Has a court or agency referral.
- m. Demonstrates behavior that is detrimental to their academic progress

**Instruction:**

Special instruction courses for at-risk youth enrolled in an alternative program will include:

- a. Core academic content that meets or exceeds minimum state standards;
- b. A physical fitness/personal health component;
- c. Career and technical education component approved by the state division of career and technical education;
- d. A personal finance, parenting, and child care component; and
- e. A personal and career counseling component.

**Graduation Credit:**

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.

**Special Services:**

Special services, where appropriate for at-risk youth enrolled in alternative secondary programs, include the following where appropriate:

- a. A day care center when enrollees are also parents. This center should be staffed by a qualified child care provider.
- b. Direct social services that may include officers of the court, social workers, counselors/psychologists.
- c. All services in accordance with the student's Individualized Education Program.

**Certification:**

All teachers and professional personnel must meet the certification requirements of Idaho Code 33-1201. Additionally, all courses have a teacher of record who is primarily responsible for planning and delivering instruction; assessing students using formative and summative methods; and designating the final grade.

LEGAL REFERENCES:      Alternative Secondary Programs (Section 33-1002; 33-1002c; 33-1002f, Idaho Code).