

Private Alternative Education Standards

Approved by the State Board of Education December 5, 2002

Purpose: To ensure a safe educational environment and instructional program that provides students with an opportunity to make progress toward achieving state academic content and performance standards and successful social and educational transitions to their next steps in life.

Mission Statement

Every private alternative education program/school in Oregon will have a mission statement that clearly identifies the student population to be served and articulates the unique educational option provided by the program.

Planning and Evaluation

Every private alternative education program/school in Oregon will have an education plan, which outlines program goals and strategies in the following areas: student equity, academic achievement, social skills development, and successful transitions to further education and training.

As part of its continuous improvement process, every private alternative education program/school must have a systematic method of evaluating the effectiveness of the program/school, including the progress of students toward meeting state content and performance standards; compliance with applicable rules and statutes; and progress toward achievement of goals. All components of the private alternative program/school education plan will be aligned with the mission statement and will be evaluated initially by the contracting district and on an annual basis thereafter.

Educational Program

Every private alternative education program/school in Oregon will have an instructional program that is aligned with the school's mission and addresses the needs of the identified student population. The instructional program will be based on sound and effective educational models and approaches that will result in increased student learning and achievement. The instructional program must be aligned with State Content and Performance Standards and must outline what students in the program/school should know and be able to do as evidenced by annual student performance objectives that are measured by Oregon State Assessments and other local assessment instruments.

Every private alternative education program/school in Oregon will have a procedure for granting credit for work satisfactorily completed according to its planned educational program and in accordance with the criteria stated in OAR 581-022-1131, Credit Options.

Staffing

Every private alternative education program/school in Oregon will assure that teachers, administrators and other staff possess those qualifications necessary to administer the planned educational program in a professional manner that is aligned with the needs of the student population. The program/school will make provisions for continuing professional development to assure that staff has the opportunity to stay current with educational practices. The school will maintain records of licensure as appropriate in accordance with ORS 336.635 (3) Status of Teachers and the fingerprinting and background checks for all staff.

Site and Safety

Every private alternative education program/school in Oregon will provide safe and healthy environments for all persons wherever learning activities are conducted. The physical environment(s) must be inspected for compliance with local, state, and federal requirements and the results reported to the school's governing body, contracting school districts and, upon request, to the parents and/or guardian(s) of enrolled students. The school must adopt and implement policies and procedures to promote a safe school climate appropriate for learning for all students.

Community Support

Every private alternative education program/school in Oregon will provide evidence of broad-based community support including but not limited to direct or indirect monetary support, validation of the school's mission and any services that are available to students and families.

Administration

Every private alternative education program/school must have a system of governance in place to support the mission statement and provide policies and procedures that comply with all applicable local, state, and federal laws, codes and regulations.

Every private alternative education program/school in Oregon will have a solid business and organizational plan to provide the structure for the successful and continued operation of the program/school. The plan must demonstrate viability and the capacity for stability over time and include an annual statement of expenditures.