



POLICY

**Haddonfield
Board of Education**

PROGRAM

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Alternative Education Programs

2480 ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION PROGRAMS

The Board of Education may operate an alternative education program in accordance with the requirements of N.J.A.C. 6A:16-9.1. The program shall be approved by the Commissioner of Education and shall be separate and distinct from the already existing programs operated by the Board.

An alternative education program will fulfill the program criteria for both a high school and middle school program as outlined in N.J.A.C. 6A:16-9.2. A program will have a maximum student-teacher ratio of 12:1 for high school programs and 10:1 for middle school programs. An Individualized Program Plan (IPP) shall be developed for each general education student enrolled in the program in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:16-9.2(a)3. For a student with a disability, the alternative education program shall be consistent with the student's Individualized Education Program (IEP), pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:14, Special Education.

Individualized instruction to all students shall address the Core Curriculum Content Standards. Academic instruction sufficient to fulfill graduation requirements, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:8-5.1, shall be provided to high school students. Comprehensive support services and programs shall address each student's health, social, and emotional development and behavior. Instructional staff in an alternative education program shall be appropriately certified.

Students in the alternative education program shall comply with attendance policies, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7.8 and 6A:32-8.3. Case management services including, but not limited to, monitoring and evaluating student progress and coordinating instructional and support services shall be provided as required in N.J.A.C. 6A:16-9.2(a)10. Services to facilitate the transition of students returning to the general or special education program from the alternative education program shall be provided. A minimum student enrollment period of not less than two complete marking periods shall be required pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:16-9.2(a)12.

Student placement in an alternative education program shall be made pursuant to N.J.A.C. 16A:9.3(a). If the district places a student in an alternative education program operated by another district Board of Education, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:16-9.1(a), or another approved agency, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:16-9.1(b), the sending school district shall be responsible for ensuring compliance with the requirements of N.J.A.C. 6A:16-9.

Decisions regarding continued placement in an alternative education program or a change to a student's placement shall be made for general education students in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:16-9.3(c)1 and for students with disabilities in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:16-9.3(c)2.

N.J.A.C. 6A:16-9.1; 6A:16-9.2; 6A:16-9.3

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The Board of Education may operate an alternative education program, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:16-1.3. In the event the Board elects to operate an alternative education program, the program shall be approved by the Commissioner of Education in accordance with the requirements of N.J.A.C. 6A:16-9.1.

A. Establishment of Alternative Education Programs

1. The Board shall submit an initial or renewal application, as appropriate, to the County Office of Education, in accordance with the format prescribed by the Commissioner of Education.
2. The alternative education program approved and established by the Board shall be separate and distinct from the already existing programs operated by the Board.
3. Annually, the school district shall obtain certificates of fire inspection and, if applicable, health, sewerage plant and health, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) inspections for an alternative education facility. These certificates shall be maintained and available upon request for review by the Department of Education.

B. Program Criteria

The alternative education program in the district will fulfill the following program criteria for both high school and middle school programs, unless otherwise noted:

1. A maximum student-teacher ratio of 12:1 for high school programs;
2. A maximum student-teacher ratio of 10:1 for middle school programs;
3. An Individualized Program Plan (IPP) will be developed for each general education student enrolled in the program:
 - a. The IPP will be developed by the school district in which the student is enrolled, in consultation with the student's parent(s) or legal guardian(s) and the receiving school district, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:16-9.1(a), or other agency, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:16-9.1(b), as appropriate.
 - b. The IPP will be developed by a multidisciplinary team of professionals with knowledge of the student's educational, behavioral, emotional, social, and health needs.
 - c. The IPP will identify the appropriate instructional and support services for addressing the student's identified needs.



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- d. The IPP will be developed in accordance with the format prescribed by the Commissioner of Education and implemented within thirty calendar days of the student's placement in the district's alternative education program.
 - (1) The IPP may, but need not, be developed prior to the student's placement.
- e. A multidisciplinary team will review and, as appropriate, revise the IPP prior to the completion of the student's anticipated enrollment in the alternative education program or prior to the end of the school year, whichever occurs first.
 - (1) The multi-disciplinary team shall review and revise the IPP, as needed, at any time during the student's enrollment in the alternative education program.
 - (2) The multi-disciplinary team that reviews the IPP shall include staff from the sending school and the alternative education program who have knowledge of the student's educational, behavioral, emotional, social, and health needs.
 - (3) The student's parent(s) or legal guardian(s) shall be advised of revisions to the IPP.
4. For a student with a disability, the alternative education program shall be consistent with the student's Individualized Education Program (IEP), pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:14, Special Education;
5. Individualized instruction to students shall address the Core Curriculum Content Standards, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:8-3.1;
6. Instructional staff shall be appropriately certified, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:9-3.3;
7. Compliance with attendance policies, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7.8 and 6A:32-8.3, shall be required;
8. Academic instruction sufficient to fulfill graduation requirements, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:8-5.1, shall be provided to high school students;
9. Comprehensive support services and programs shall address each student's health, social and emotional development, and behavior;



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10. Case management services including, but not limited to, monitoring and evaluating student progress and coordinating instructional and support services, pursuant to 5, 8, and 9 above, shall be provided;
11. Services to facilitate the transition of students returning to the general or special education program shall be provided; and
12. A minimum student enrollment period of not less than two complete marking periods shall be required.
 - a. If the student is enrolled with less than two complete marking periods remaining prior to the end of the school year, the decision regarding continued placement in the alternative education program shall be made in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:16-9.3(a).
 - b. If the student is removed from the general education program and placed in an alternative education program as a result of a firearm or assault with a weapon offense, the Superintendent may modify the term of removal or placement on a case-by-case basis, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:16-5.5(b)1 and 5.6(b)1.
 - c. For the student with a disability, the enrollment period shall be determined by appropriate school personnel in accordance with the provisions of N.J.A.C. 6A:14, Special Education, and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act of 2004, 20 U.S.C. § § 1400 et seq.

C. Student Placements

A student's placement in an alternative education program shall be made as follows:

1. For the general education student, the Principal shall make a determination of the student's risk for school failure and a decision regarding the student's placement in an alternative education program, at a minimum, based on the following:
 - a. The review of the student's academic, health, and behavioral records, including the student's IPP, if one has been developed in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:16-9.2(a)3i through v, and the results of available testing, assessment or evaluation of the student;
 - b. Consultation with and notice to the student's parent(s) or legal guardian(s); and
 - c. Information provided by the school-based multi-disciplinary team responsible to provide intervention and referral services, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:16-8, or other multi-disciplinary team, as appropriate.



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2. Decisions regarding the placement of the student with a disability in an alternative education program, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:16-9.1(a) and (b), shall be based on the recommendation of appropriate personnel in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:14.
3. The district shall provide mandatory placement for a student in an alternative education program for removal due to a firearms offense, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:16-5.5 or an assault with weapons offense, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:16-5.6.
 - a. If placement in an alternative education program is not available in the instance of a mandatory student placement, the student shall be provided home or out-of-school instruction, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:16-10, until placement in an alternative education program is available.
 - b. For the student with a disability, placement in an alternative education program for a firearm offense or an assault with a weapon offense shall occur only upon a determination by appropriate school personnel to place the student in accordance with the provisions of N.J.A.C. 6A:14, Special Education Programs and the Individuals with Disabilities Act of 2004, 20 U.S.C. § § 1400 et seq.

D. Alternative Education Program in Another District or Agency

If the district places a student in an alternative education program approved by another district Board of Education, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:16-9.1(a), or another approved agency, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:16-9.1(b), the sending school district shall be responsible for ensuring compliance with the requirements of N.J.A.C. 6A:16-9.

E. Continued Placement/Change of Placement

1. Decisions regarding continued placement in an alternative education program or a change to a student's placement shall be made as follows:
 - a. For the general education student returning to the general education program, the continued placement decision shall be made in accordance with B.11. above, as appropriate, and C.1. above.
 - b. For a student with disabilities, the continued placement decision shall be made in accordance with B.11. above, as appropriate, C.2. above, and N.J.A.C. 6A:14, Special Education.

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