

ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION

The Governing Board shall provide an alternative education program as an option for at-risk students who may need a flexible educational environment. The alternative education program shall be designed to meet the educational needs of each student, provide an opportunity for participating students to complete the required course of instruction necessary to graduate from high school, emphasize occupational orientation or a work study schedule, and offer intensive guidance services. All aspects of a traditional Continuation Education program are included in the district's Alternative Education program.

(cf. 6146.1 – High School Graduation Requirements)
(cf. 6164.2 – Guidance/Counseling Services)
(cf. 6178 – Career Technical Education)

The alternative education program shall be aligned with the goals identified in the district's local control and accountability plan, designed and implemented in collaboration with other high schools within the district, and coordinated with other educational options available to district students.

(cf. 0420.4 – Charter Schools)
(cf. 0460 – Local Control and Accountability Plan)
(cf. 6158 – Independent Study)
(cf. 6172 – Gifted and Talented Student Program)
(cf. 6183 – Home and Hospital Instruction)
(cf. 6200 – Adult Education)

The Superintendent or designee shall appoint a director of alternative education who shall be responsible for the organization and administration of the district's alternative education program and guidance, placement, and follow-up services for participating students. (5 CCR 11000, 11003)

The alternative high school shall be conducted for not less than 175 days during a school year. The Board may maintain alternative classes during the district's regular school hours, during special school hours for these classes established by the Board, or during such hours and for such length of time during the day or evening that adult education classes are maintained. (Education Code 48434; 5 CCR 11004)

(cf. 6111 – School Calendar)
(cf. 6112 – School Day)

Students eligible for alternative education classes shall be age 16 or 17 years at the time of their enrollment and shall not have graduated from high school. Students 14 or 15 years old may enroll on a voluntary basis with the approval of the Executive Director of Student Support Services. (Education Code 48400, 48413)

ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION (continued)

A student may be involuntarily transferred into an alternative education program in accordance with law and administrative regulation. (Education Code 48432.5)

With the consent of the Superintendent or designee, a student may voluntarily enroll in alternative classes in order to receive special attention such as individualized instruction. (Education Code 48432, 48432.3, 48432.5)

Priority for voluntary enrollment in alternative classes shall be given to students who need credit recovery in order to graduate with their peers and to students who, due to employment, pregnancy, parenting responsibilities, or other circumstances, are unable to attend a comprehensive high school. A student with a disability shall be admitted only if his/her individualized education program specifically states that an alternative high school setting meets his/her needs.

(cf. 5146 – Married/Pregnant/Parenting Students)

(cf. 5147 – Dropout Prevention)

(cf. 6159 – Individualized Education Program)

Enrollment criteria shall be applied consistently throughout the district. (Education Code 48432.3)

(cf. 0410 – Nondiscrimination in District Programs and Activities)

Students may be enrolled in a regional occupational center or program within the county in lieu of, or in combination with, alternative education. (Education Code 48432)

(cf. 6178.2 – Regional Occupational Center/Program)

Students otherwise subject to compulsory attendance in alternative education classes may be exempted if they meet any of the conditions specified in Education Code 48410 and AR 5112.1 - Exemptions from Attendance.

The Superintendent or designee shall regularly evaluate the effectiveness of district alternative education programs and report these evaluation results to the Board. Indicators may include, but not be limited to, disaggregated data on student enrollment, student assessment results, and graduation rates.

(cf. 0500 – Accountability)

(cf. 6162.5 – Student Assessment)

(cf. 6162.52 – High School Exit Examination)

(cf. 6190 – Evaluation of the Instructional Program)

ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION (continued)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

46170 Minimum school day for continuation schools and classes

48400-48454 Compulsory continuation education, especially:

48400 Weekly minimum attendance requirement

48402 Minors not regularly employed

48410-48416 Compulsory continuation education

48430-48438 Continuation classes

48450-48454 Violation

48900 Grounds for suspension and expulsion

48900.5 Student discipline

48903 Limitations on days of suspension

51224-51225.3 Courses of study

60850-60856 High school exit examination

FAMILY CODE

7000-7002 Emancipation of minors law

7050 Purposes for which emancipated minor considered an adult

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5

11000-11010 Continuation education

COURT DECISIONS

Nathan G. v. Clovis Unified School District (2014) Cal.App.5th (No. F065485)

Management Resources:

JOHN W. GARDNER CENTER FOR YOUTH AND THEIR COMMUNITIES PUBLICATIONS

Raising the Bar, Building Capacity: Driving Improvement in California's Continuation High Schools,
May 2012

*Intake Processes at Continuation High Schools: Shaping School Climate through Selection and
Enrollment Strategies, February 2011*

WEB SITES

California Continuation Education Association: <http://www.cceanet.org>

California Department of Education: <http://www.cde.ca.gov>

John W. Gardner Center for Youth and Their Communities, Stanford School of Education:
<http://jqc.stanford.edu>

Policy
adopted: May 9, 1990
revised: March 13, 2003
revised: January 18, 2018

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Murrieta, California