

ALTERNATIVE PROGRAMS POLICY

It shall be the policy of School District No. 121 to provide suitable programs for its students. Where existing programs and learning environments do not seem to be meeting the needs of some students, alternative education programs may be established. Parents, students, teachers, administrators, and other citizens shall be given as much freedom as possible to recommend and/or develop alternative forms of education, and shall be encouraged to propose imaginative and innovative programs.

In order for an alternative proposal to be acceptable for preview it must meet the following criteria:

- A. Demonstrate adherence to a **COMPREHENSIVE SET OF EDUCATIONAL OBJECTIVES**-not particular ones. Proposals cannot, for example, emphasize only emotional growth at the expense of intellectual development. The converse is also true. Comprehensive educational objectives deal with work careers, citizenship, talent development, intellectual and emotional growth, problem solving, critical thinking, and the like;
- B. Access to alternative programs cannot be denied to any individual or group on the basis of gender, race, religion or economic status;
- C. It is not **SUPERIMPOSED** but a matter of choice for all participants – teachers, parents, and students;
- D. It is viewed as **ANOTHER WAY** of providing education alongside the existing pattern, which continues to be legitimate; and
- E. Includes a plan for **EVALUATION**.

Groups of individuals wishing to make proposals shall be provided with necessary guidelines by School District 121 administration for developing their proposals and shall be informed of the steps involved in seeking School Board approval of those proposals.*

*This policy is not intended to supplant existing avenues for approval of teacher innovations within their class or building.

Adoption Date: 8/08/2005