

Alternative Learning Experience Programs

Recognize Differences Between Alternative Learning Programs and Home-Based Instruction

The parent/guardian shall sign documentation attesting to his or her understanding of the difference between the alternative learning program and home-based instruction. The documentation shall be retained by the district and made available for audit.

Alternative Learning Experience Plan

Each student participating in an alternative learning experience shall have a written alternative learning experience plan developed and monitored by district certificated staff that meets the minimum criteria of:

1. Providing a schedule of the duration of the program, including beginning and ending dates;
2. Identifying the essential instructional materials and describing of the learning activities the student is expected to successfully complete, in sufficient detail to guide and advise parent/guardian and the student of the expectations;
3. Describing the teaching component(s) of the program, including where and when teaching activities will be conducted by school district staff;
4. Describing the responsibilities of the parent/guardian and student. The student and parent/guardian as needed shall make direct personal contact with a qualified district staff person at least once each week for instructional support, review of the student's assignments, testing, and/or learning activities. Direct personal contact will usually be face-to-face, but when determined appropriate by the instructor, the contact may be made via interactive electronic means;
5. Providing an estimate of the average number of hours the student will be engaged in learning activities to meet the requirements of the alternative learning plan;
6. Including learning goals and objectives. Course syllabi may be used to meet this requirement.
7. Including timelines and methods of evaluation; and
8. Identifying whether the alternative learning experience meets one or more of the state Essential Academic Learning Requirements and recently adopted Common Core State Standards or any other academic goals, objectives, and learning requirements defined by the district. For high school alternative learning experiences, the plan shall specify whether the experience meets state and district graduation requirements.

Student Performance

Alternative learning experience curriculum and course requirements will meet or exceed the District's curriculum frameworks and the state of Washington's Grade Level Expectations and recently adopted Common Core State Standards.

Student performance will be supervised, evaluated, and recorded by district staff.

1. Student performance will be evaluated by qualified district staff. Direct personal contact with students shall be conducted or supervised by certificated staff. Tutoring, supervision of test taking, and correction of student work may be done by classified staff;

2. Student performance will be evaluated by certificated staff through a variety of methods, including, but not limited to: testing, discussion, review of written assignments, projects, and presentations; and
3. Student performance will be recorded using the following:
 - a. A record of performance on the learning activities described in the alternative learning experience plan and the assessments completed;
 - b. A log of student contact with the district staff; and
 - c. A copy of the students' written weekly statement of hours engaged in planned learning activities while not in the presence of district staff. This statement will be signed by the parent, guardian, or person designated in the alternative learning experience plan.

Review of Student Progress

Each student's educational progress will be evaluated at least monthly by certificated staff and reported by direct personal contact with the student and parent/guardian. Contact may be made by electronic means when deemed appropriate by the parent/guardian and certificated staff.

1. For students in grades K-12 the result of each evaluation shall be communicated to the student and the parents or guardian. Emancipated or married students are exempt from this requirement;
2. If the student fails to make satisfactory progress for no more than two consecutive evaluation periods or if the student fails to follow the written student learning plan, an intervention plan designed to improve student progress shall be developed and implemented. This intervention plan shall be developed by school staff in conjunction with the student and, for students in grades K-8, the student's parent(s)/guardian; and
3. If, after no more than three subsequent evaluation periods, the student still is not making satisfactory progress, a plan designed to more appropriately meet the student's educational need shall be developed and implemented by school staff in conjunction with the student and, for students in grades K-8, the student's parent(s)/guardian.
 - a. The plan shall specify that the student shall be removed from the alternative learning experience no later than the end of the current school year for a period of at least one term.
 - b. Students removed from the alternative learning experience shall be offered the opportunity to enroll in another course of study as defined in WAC 392-12-107.
4. Students are expected to participate in all evaluation programs required by the state of Washington or the district. Statutory exemptions as outlined in home-based instruction and private school laws and rules may apply to certain individuals, however it is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to provide proof of exemption.

Student Records

The alternative learning experience plan and records of enrollment, attendance, and total hours of participation in educational activities shall be maintained and available for audit in a central location within the district. These records will also include the statements signed by the parent/guardian and submitted by students documenting the number of hours engaged in learning activities while not in the presence of district staff.

Parent/Guardian Responsibilities

The student's parent(s)/guardian shall be responsible for:

1. Approving of the written alternative learning plan as well as participating in the development and approval of any intervention plans or revised written learning plans.
2. Providing or supervising a portion of the student's alternative learning experience if agreed to as part of the written alternative learning plan;
 - a. A parent or guardian of a student will be required to supervise any portion of the student's alternative learning plan that takes place outside of the direct supervision of District staff. This includes review and correction of the student's daily work. A parent/guardian signature on forms documenting the number of ;hours the student was engaged in learning activities away from school will be regarded as that parent/guardian's assertion that the work was completed by the student and that the hours recorded are accurate.;
 - b. A parent/guardian who is providing or supervising a portion of the student's alternative learning experience will meet with the instructional staff for the purpose of evaluating the student's performance or receiving instruction on assisting with the student's alternative learning plan; and
 - c. If a parent/guardian cannot or will not participate in providing or supervising a portion of the student's alternative learning experience, a person (not the instructor) that is agreed upon by the instructor and parent/guardian, may be specified in the student's alternative learning plan as one who may provide or supervise a portion of the plan.