

606.1 Alternative Programs

Policy

The Board recognizes the value of offering Alternative Programs which may emphasize a particular language, culture, religion, subject matter or teaching philosophy are permitted in accordance with the Education Act.

Regulations

1. A proposal to establish an Alternative Program must be submitted to the Superintendent by October 30 prior to commencement of the school year in which implementation of the Alternative Program is to occur. Alternative Programs require Board approval by April 1 for program implementation in the following school year. Each Alternative Program proposal must include the following elements:
 - 1.1. name of program;
 - 1.2. detailed description of the essential characteristics of the Alternative Program depending on its base of language, culture, subject matter, religion or teaching philosophy;
 - 1.3. grade levels involved;
 - 1.4. anticipated enrolment;
 - 1.5. location, facility and instructional resource needs;
 - 1.6. procedures to follow when enrolment is higher than originally anticipated or higher than the program can accommodate;
 - 1.7. criteria for student admission, based on a description of the alternative program and its focus;
 - 1.8. staffing requirements;
 - 1.9. program monitoring and evaluation;
 - 1.10. funding required, including funding for start-up and implementation costs if applicable;
 - 1.11. transportation plans and transportation fees;
 - 1.12. parent fees, if required; and
 - 1.13. school council implications.
2. Within 45 days of the Division receiving an Alternative Program proposal, the applicant shall be informed as to the status of their proposal with respect to compliance with Regulation 1.
3. Proposals will be judged on the following criteria:
 - 3.1. consistency with the School Act and with Alberta Education's vision, policies, mission and mandate for education;
 - 3.2. consistency with Lethbridge School Division's vision, mission, policies and administrative regulations;

- 3.3. consistency with sound educational theory and practice;
- 3.4. intended student benefits;
- 3.5. impact on current course and program offerings;
- 3.6. impact on facilities and financial and human resources;
- 3.7. availability of staff and instructional resources;
- 3.8. extent of demand for the program;
- 3.9. indication of long-term sustainability;
- 3.10. expected results; and
4. measures to determine whether results are being achieved.
The applicant shall be informed of the date on which the Board shall hear presentation of the Alternative Program application.
5. The applicant shall be informed, within 5 business days, of the Board's decision with respect to program approval.
6. An Alternative Program shall operate in an existing school unless student enrolment and/or programming needs require other arrangements.
7. Alternative Programs shall initially operate on a probationary status for one year. At the end of the probationary period, the Board may:
 - 7.1. grant continuing status;
 - 7.2. extend the probationary period; or
 - 7.3. terminate the program.
8. Once a program has been granted continuing status, it shall be evaluated in accordance with Division policy.
9. The Division may charge a fee for non-instructional costs for the purpose of defraying program costs which exceed those required for regular programs.
10. Notwithstanding the above, an Alternative Program may be terminated by the Board, at any time, upon recommendation of the Superintendent.

The Board delegates to the Superintendent the authority to develop the procedures necessary to implement this policy.

References

Education Act:	19
Division Policies:	606.3 Outreach Programs; 606.4 Institutional Programs