

ALTERNATIVE LEARNING PROGRAMS

Proposal to Implement an Alternative Learning Program or School



Public Schools of North Carolina
State Board of Education
Department of Public Instruction

Alternative Learning Programs and Schools Proposal

This process will help to ensure proper planning, development, and implementation of effective alternative learning programs and schools. The State Board of Education will use these documents to approve or disapprove new alternative learning programs and schools. The proposal checklist is the guideline for completion of the application process. All documents (including the checklist) must be submitted to the State Board of Education for review.

SECTION 2. Article 8C of Chapter 115C of the General Statutes is amended by adding the following new section to read:

"§ 115C-105.47A. Proposals to establish alternative learning programs or alternative schools.

- (a) Before establishing any alternative learning program or alternative school, the local board of education shall develop a proposal to implement the program or school that includes all of the following:
- (1) The educational and behavioral goals for students assigned to the program or school.
 - (2) The policies and procedures for the operation of the program or school based on the State Board's standards adopted under G.S. 115C-12(24). The policies and procedures shall address the assignment of students to the program or school.
 - (3) Identified strategies that will be used to improve student achievement and behavior.
 - (4) Documentation that similar programs and schools in or out of the State, or both, have demonstrated success in improving the academic achievement and behavior of students assigned to them.
 - (5) The estimated actual cost of operating the program or school. To the extent practicable, this shall include the cost of:
 - a. Staffing the program or school with teachers who have at least four years' teaching experience and who have received an overall rating of at least above standard on a formal evaluation and are certified in the areas and grade levels being taught;
 - b. Providing optimum learning environments, resources and materials, and high quality, ongoing professional development that will ensure students who are placed in the program or school are provided enhanced educational opportunities in order to achieve their full potential;
 - c. Providing support personnel, including school counselors, psychiatrists, clinical psychologists, social workers, nurses, and other professionals to help students and their families work out complex issues and problems;
 - d. Maintaining safe and orderly learning environments; and
 - e. Providing transitional supports for students exiting the program or school and reentering the referring school.
 - (6) Documented support of school personnel and the community for the implementation of the program or school.

(b) After the local board completes the proposal under subsection (a) of this section, the board shall submit the proposal to the State Board of Education for its review. The State Board shall review the proposal expeditiously and, if appropriate, may offer recommendations to modify the proposal. The local board shall consider any recommendations made by the State Board before implementing the alternative learning program or alternative school."

Program Types (Two Options)

Alternative Learning Program

An alternative learning program is one option for an alternative learning program. It is established in affiliation with a traditional accredited school. The information that is generated by the participants of the program becomes a part of the history and documentation of a traditional school. A program may be housed within a school, on the same site, or at a different location within the district.

Alternative Learning School

An alternative learning school is the second option for an alternative education program. It serves at-risk students and has an organizational designation based on the DPI assignment of an official school code. An alternative school is different from a regular public school and provides choices of routes to completion of school. For the majority of students, the goal is to return to the regular public school. Alternative schools may vary from other schools in such areas as teaching methods, hours, curriculum, or sites, and they are intended to meet particular learning needs. Each school (including ALPS) in the state of North Carolina is required to develop a school improvement plan that includes a safe school plan. Additionally, programs that are established in accord with or operate as quasi-independent entities should also have school improvement and safety plans. *Reference G.S. (115C-105.27)*

Proposal Checklist for Establishing an Alternative Learning Program or School

LEA Name: _____ **LEA #:** _____

THIS CHECKLIST IS INTENDED TO SERVE AS A GUIDE FOR COMPLETION OF THE APPLICATION

<i>Requirement</i>	<i>Check</i>	<i>Comments</i>
Set education and behavior goals for students assigned to the program or school.		
Set policies and procedures for the operation of the program or school (based on the State Board's standards) addressing the assignment of students to the program or school.		
Identify strategies that will be used to improve student achievement and behavior.		
Document similar programs and schools, in or out of the State, that have demonstrated success in improving the academic achievement and behavior of students assigned to them.		
Estimate actual cost of operating the program or school.		
Staff the program or school with teachers who have at least four years' teaching experience and who have received an overall rating of at least above standard on a formal evaluation and are certified in the areas and grade levels being taught		
Provide optimum learning environments, resources and materials, and high quality, ongoing professional development that will ensure students who are placed in the program or school are provided enhanced educational opportunities in order to achieve their full potential		
Provide support personnel, including school counselors, psychiatrists, clinical psychologists, social workers, nurses, and other professionals to help students and their families work out complex issues and problems		
Maintain safe and orderly learning environments		
Provide transitional supports for students exiting the program or school and reentering the referring school		
Document support of school personnel and the community for the implementation of the program or school		

This signature assures the Department of Public Instruction that all of the information provided was locally approved and submitted according to the ALP Standards and Governing Policy/Legislation.

Superintendent's Signature

Date

PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH AN ALTERNATIVE LEARNING PROGRAM OR SCHOOL

- type information in boxes below (additional sheets may be attached if necessary)

1. Describe the education and behavioral goals for students assigned to the proposed program or school. (Goals should be measurable.)

2. Describe the policies and procedures for the operation of the program or school. Address the assignment of students to the program or school in this section.

3. Describe strategies that will be used to improve student achievement and behavior.

4. Provide documentation that similar programs or schools in or out of the state have demonstrated success in improving the achievement and behavior of students assigned to them.

Program or School Name: _____

State: _____

Description:

Program or School Name: _____

State: _____

Description:

5. Use the Budget Plan to estimate actual cost of operating the program or school. To the extent practicable, this shall include the cost of:

- a. Staffing the program or school with teachers who have at least four years teaching experience and who have received an overall rating of at least above standard on a formal evaluation and are certified in the areas and grade levels being taught:
- b. Providing optimum learning environments, resources and materials, and on-going high quality professional development to ensure students placed in the program or school are provided enhanced educational opportunities in order to achieve their full potential.
- c. Providing support personnel, including school counselors, psychiatrists, clinical psychologists, social workers, nurses, and other professionals to help students and their families work out complex issues and problems.
- d. Maintaining a safe, orderly, and caring learning environment.
- e. Providing transitional supports for students exiting the program or school and re-entering the referring school.

BUDGET PLAN

CONSIDERATION	DESCRIPTION	BUDGET
a. Staffing		\$
b. Resources & Materials		\$
c. Professional Development		

d. Support Personnel		\$
e. Safe Environment Assessment & Monitoring		\$
f. Transitional Support for Students Exiting & Re-entering		\$
	<p>Estimated actual cost of operating the program or school. (TOTAL = sum of considerations a. – f.)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">TOTAL ANNUAL BUDGET</p>	\$

6. List steps or strategies required for successful implementation.

School Implementation Plan

Steps/Strategies	Person Responsible	Timeline

7. Provide (here or in an attachment) documentation of support by school personnel and/or the community for the implementation of the program or school.

Proposals may be mailed to:

**NCDPI – Support Services Section
6350 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-6350**

PLEASE DO NOT FAX APPLICATIONS!

For questions related to this application, contact
Support Services Section at (919) 807-3940.



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