

KANAWHA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY

Alternative Education Programs

Series: J37

Reference: West Virginia Code §18-5-19; West Virginia Department of Education Policy 2418

Issued: 12.14.2000

Revised: 01.17.2002

Revision Number: 1

Mission Statement

To afford students the opportunity to earn an individually designed, quality education in an equitable alternative setting, delivered by appropriate professional and support personnel in an environment that is safe and encouraging.

Vision

The Kanawha County Board of Education has as its vision for the school district to become a community of caring, in partnership with the community at large, to empower all students to become productive, ethical citizens and lifelong learners responsive to an ever changing world through an individualized, rigorous, and personally challenging education. It is our hope that we will establish opportunities for students who have not had success in a traditional setting which will enable them to develop the necessary skills for self-sufficiency, interpersonal responsibility and community contribution.

37.01**EQUITY** – Providing a quality education for students in alternative programs is a critical task and a legal requirement for Kanawha County Schools. Policies addressing alternative programs will be mindful of the greater needs of at-risk students, and resources will be equitably allocated.

37.02**GENERAL** – Alternative programs have been established to provide basic instruction for students who, for a variety of reasons, are not successful in their home schools. An alternative education program is a temporary authorized departure from the regular school program designed to provide educational and social development for students whose disruptive behavior places them at risk of not succeeding in the traditional school structures and in adult life without positive interventions and to ensure students in the regular school program may learn in a safe and nondisruptive environment. Students may be placed in alternative education programs for (a) violations of the Productive and Safe Schools Act (W. Va. Code 18A-5-1a) in

KANAWHA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY

Alternative Education Programs

Series: J37

Reference: West Virginia Code §18-5-19; West Virginia Department of Education Policy 2418

Issued: 12.14.2000

Revised: 01.17.2002

Revision Number: 1

accordance with the provisions of the Act; (b) repeated violations of the county's discipline policy following documented multiple behavioral interventions by the Student Assistance Team at the referring school; and (c) continuation of educational services during periods of suspension or expulsion. These programs may be made available as a support to students who are still enrolled in their home schools, or they may require referral to a program outside of the home school. This policy is primarily concerned with: (1) Required Programs (programs that are county wide and require the student to enroll in a program outside of the home school); and (2) Voluntary Programs (programs that a student may request or voluntarily decide to attend). The only voluntary program which applies to section 37.05 of this policy is the School Aged Expectant Mother's Program. These programs will comply with the requirements of WVDE Policy 2418.

37.03*STEERING COMMITTEE* – The Alternative Education Steering Committee will be empowered to review and recommend, on an annual basis, any modifications and to report the progress of the Alternative Education Program. Recommendations will be made to the Superintendent who will submit the report to the Board of Education. This committee will consist of:

Assistant Superintendent, Student Support Services

Director of Student Affairs and Alternative Programs

One Elementary Principal

One Secondary Principal

One Assistant Principal

One Faculty Senate member, selected by a vote of the joint county schools' Faculty Senates

One parent of an Alternative Education student, selected by the Superintendent

KANAWHA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY

Alternative Education Programs

Series: J37

Reference: West Virginia Code §18-5-19; West Virginia Department of Education Policy 2418

Issued: 12.14.2000

Revised: 01.17.2002

Revision Number: 1

One representative of the business community, selected by the Superintendent

37.04 REFERRAL PROCESS

- (1) The home school SAT (Student Assistance Team) must review and document the student's academic, social, and emotional status, noting all attempts at intervention and which efforts have been successful or unsuccessful.
- (2) If it is determined that the student should be referred to an alternative program outside of the home school, documentation on attendance, grades, test scores, SAT interventions, behavior, and previous educational history must be compiled.
- (3) The alternative education placement team, called the County Student Assistance Team (SAT), will determine whether documentation is complete, due process procedures were followed, if the student meets the eligibility criteria, space is available, and if additional services (including referral to outside agencies or referral back to the home school).
- (4) The County SAT will develop each student's written plan (Individualized Instructional Plan) which includes both academic courses and behavioral components, criteria for reentry to the regular school program, and provisions for periodic review of the student's progress at least on an annual basis. The team for all students with disabilities shall be the IEP team and the written plan shall be the IEP.

37.05 INVOLUNTARY VS. VOLUNTARY PLACEMENTS – The above procedures will be observed for all involuntary placements. In regards to voluntary placements, refer to the Procedures Manual for Alternative Education programs which specifies the voluntary placement of students in the Expectant Mothers' Program.

KANAWHA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY

Alternative Education Programs

Series: J37

Reference: West Virginia Code §18-5-19; West Virginia Department of Education Policy 2418

Issued: 12.14.2000

Revised: 01.17.2002

Revision Number: 1

37.06*ELIGIBILITY PROCESS* – Upon referral, the County SAT shall review and make recommendations. The County SAT will be regarded as the Superintendent’s designee for purposes of the transfer and placement of a student in Alternative Programs. Students may be placed in alternative programs for (a) violations of the Productive and Safe Schools Act (W. Va. Code 18A-5-1a) in accordance with the provisions of the Act; (b) repeated violations of the county’s discipline policy following documented behavioral interventions by the Student Assistance Team at the referring school; and (c) continuation of educational services during periods of suspension or expulsion.

37.07*FACILITIES* – Facilities for alternative education programs will be assigned on an equitable basis, with students having access to library and media services, computer labs, gymnasiums, cafeterias, and classroom labs.

37.08*SUPPORT SERVICES* – Counseling and psychological services shall be provided, as indicated in each student’s IIP, for all students.

37.09*STAFFING* – The staffing of alternative programs will be based, at a minimum, upon county guidelines for all schools. However, due to the non-traditional nature of alternative schools, staffing may be modified. The Superintendent shall have discretion to recommend alternative staffing levels if circumstances, including, but not limited to budget restraints, identified academic deficiencies, or other compelling factors, warrant.