

# Santa Barbara Unified School District

## Administrative Regulation

AR 6181

### Instruction

#### ALTERNATIVE SCHOOLS/PROGRAMS OF CHOICE

##### Notifications

At the beginning of each school year, the "Notice of Alternative Schools" shall be sent to all parents/guardians as set forth in Education Code 58501. During the entire month of March of each year, a copy of this notice shall be posted at each school in at least two places normally visible to students, teachers, and visiting parents/guardians. (Education Code 58501)

*(cf. 5145.6 - Parental Notifications)*

Copies of the law providing for alternative schools as defined in Ed Code 58500 (Education Code 58500-58512) shall be made available in the district office and each school office to any interested parent/guardian, teacher, or student. (Education Code 58501)

##### Proposals

All proposals for the establishment of an alternative school or school/program of choice, including an academy within a school shall:

1. Address the district's vision, goals, and academic standards

*(cf. 0000 - Vision)*

*(cf. 0200 - Goals for the School District)*

*(cf. 6011 - Academic Standards)*

2. Demonstrate that the number of students interested in enrolling in the alternative school or school/program of choice is sufficient to meet desired student-teacher staffing ratios

*(cf. 6151 - Class Size)*

3. Demonstrate that teachers are willing to work within the school or program
4. Demonstrate that the proposed operational plan conforms with district timelines and makes equitable use of district staff, facilities, and resources
5. Provide a statement of the specific anticipated costs of implementing the proposal as well as funding sources, including outside funding sources and/or district support
6. Include a comprehensive plan for an annual evaluation of the school/program to be carried out by the district

*(cf. 0500 - Accountability)*

*(cf. 6190 - Evaluation of the Instructional Program)*

In addition, academies within a school shall include:

7. The student application process with established eligibility criteria
8. A comprehensive plan to achieve equitable access and representation of under-represented student groups
9. Staff assigned to direct and coordinate the program
10. Related extra-curricular activities, as resources allow

11. Coordinated community partnerships

**Enrollment**

The district may establish alternative schools in each attendance area and/or on a district-wide basis with enrollment open to all students district-wide. (Education Code 58505)

*(cf. 5116.1 - Intradistrict Open Enrollment)*

Students enrolled in alternative schools shall be selected entirely from volunteers. (Education Code 58503)

Previous classroom performance shall not be a criterion limiting any student from the opportunity to attend an alternative school as defined in Ed Code 58500. (Education Code 58504)

Alternative schools and schools/programs of choice shall comply with state and federal law and Board policy regarding nondiscrimination in district programs.

*(cf. 0410 - Nondiscrimination in District Programs and Activities)*

When an alternative class group is established within a school, the Superintendent or designee shall ensure that students currently enrolled in the school will not be displaced.

**Operations**

The district shall maintain and fund alternative schools at the same level of support as other district educational programs for students of the same age level. (Education Code 58507)

*(cf. 3100 - Budget)*

Teachers employed in alternative schools shall be selected entirely from volunteers. (Education Code 58503)

*(cf. 4113 - Assignment)*

Course credits earned in an alternative school or school/program of choice shall be equivalent to the credits earned in other district schools. Students enrolled in such schools or programs shall be expected to complete all district graduation requirements and shall earn a regular diploma.

*(cf. 6146.1 - High School Graduation Requirements)*

*(cf. 6162.52 - High School Exit Examination)*

California Partnership Academies shall adhere to their distinct legal regulations as set forth in California Education Code 54690.

SANTA BARBARA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Santa Barbara, California

May 5, 2009; April 27, 2010; April 24, 2012