

Marion County Board of Education

Monitoring:

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Alternative School Programs

6.319

07/12/21

Rescinds:

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04/24/01

The Board shall operate an alternative school program for students in grades 5-12 who have been suspended or expelled from regular school programs.¹ Attendance in alternative school programs shall be mandatory except for students in grades seven through twelve (7-12) who have been expelled from the regular school program for committing a zero tolerance offense in accordance with unless said student is assigned to the alternative school by the director of schools determined on a case by case basis T.C.A. § 49-6-3402(c)(1)(B)(ii)(iii) and students attending an alternative school located other than at their home school shall provide their own transportation.

Teachers in alternative schools shall be certified by the state and shall be selected on the basis of interest and ability to work in alternative situations.

Student-teacher ratios shall be small enough to allow for adequate instruction but shall be determined by the age, behavior and academic achievement of students in the program.

Sufficient textbooks, equipment and supplies shall be provided by the home school.

Alternative school programs shall be operated in accordance with the rules of the State Board of Education and instruction shall proceed as nearly as practicable in accordance with the instructional programs at the student's home school. All course work completed and credits earned in the alternative school shall be transferred to and recorded in the student's home school. Credit earned and progress made shall be granted as if the work were performed in the home school. No student may graduate based solely on attendance in alternative schools.¹

Except students who are eligible for special education, such change in a student's program shall be determined by the disciplinary hearing authority in accordance with the suspension policy of the Board and based upon recommendations from a team composed of the principal, the school guidance counselor and the student, with or without the parents being present.

The student shall be subject to all rules of the school and violations of such rules may result in the student's removal from the school for the duration of the original intended suspension or expulsion. Violation of school rules shall not constitute grounds for extension of time spent in the alternative school. The final decision on such removal shall be made by the chief administrator of the alternative school.

Students found to be eligible for special education in related circumstances shall be placed and served in accordance with the law and rules relating to special education.²

Legal Reference:

1. TCA 49-6-3402; OP Tenn. Atty. Gen. 93-43 (May 12, 1993)
2. TRR/MS 0520-1-2-.09

Cross References:

- Special Education 4.202
- Suspension/Expulsion/Remand 6.316
- Disciplinary Hearing Authority 6.317
- Special Education Students 6.500