

Alternative Learning Experience Program

Purpose

This policy establishes the district's Alternative Learning Experience program and sets forth the authority for its implementation and development of courses.

Scope

This policy informs the Superintendent, administrators, ALE principals, teachers and staff, as well as students, parents or guardians.

Policy

1. Valley School District will, at the discretion of the Board of Directors, implement its philosophy of Family Choice Education by offering an Alternative Learning Experience (ALE) program to families who choose a non-traditional method for the education of their children. The Board believes that ALE provides tremendous opportunities for students to access curriculum and specialized courses in a flexible learning environment that might not otherwise be available. Therefore, the Board supports a range of learning opportunities that are equally accessible to all students in the district and are designed to meet individual needs.
2. The district will provide information to parents or guardians, students and staff regarding learning options and the guidelines for participation.
3. **OPERATIONAL GUIDELINES**
 - 3.1. ALE programs may include online courses, remote courses and site-based courses, as defined in RCW 28A.232.010. The Board authorizes the creation of ALE courses, as defined in Procedure #2255P1. Courses available through the district's ALE program are included in the Columbia Virtual Academy (CVA) Course Catalog and are provided on site or over the internet or by other electronic means, as defined in WAC 392-121-182.
 - 3.2. The Board authorizes the Superintendent or designee to establish ALE partnerships with other school districts pursuant to an interdistrict cooperation agreement, with Board approval.
 - 3.3. The Board will adopt and annually review ALE policies, including courses and course providers, and authorizes the Superintendent or designee to oversee the district's ALE courses or programs and develop comprehensive procedures to implement this policy in accordance with WAC 392-121-182.
4. **REPORTING REQUIREMENTS**
 - 4.1. **Annual Report to the Board of Directors**

The Superintendent or designee will monitor compliance with related laws and rules and report on the program annually to the Board of Directors, and include information required by WAC 392-121-182(5).

4.2. State-Level Reports

4.2.1. The district will report monthly to the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI):

(a) Accurate monthly headcount and full-time equivalent enrollment for students enrolled in the ALE program.

(b) Information about the resident and serving districts of such students.

4.2.2. The district must submit an annual report to OSPI detailing the costs and purposes of any expenditures made to purchase or contract for instructional or co-curricular experiences and services that are included in an ALE written student learning plan, along with the substantially similar experiences or services made available to students enrolled in the district's regular instructional program. The district must also report:

(a) The number of certificated instructional staff full-time equivalent assigned to each alternative learning experience program.

(b) Enrollment of students (separately identified) where ALE instruction is provided entirely under contract pursuant to RCW 28A.150.305 and WAC 392-121-188.

5. ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS

5.1. All students enrolled in ALE courses or course work must be assessed at least annually, using, for full-time students, the state assessment for the student's grade level and using any other annual assessments required by the district.

5.2. Part-time students must also be assessed at least annually. However, part-time students who are either receiving home-based instruction under Chapter 28A.200 RCW or who are enrolled in an approved private school under Chapter 28A.195 RCW are not required to participate in the assessments required under Chapter 28A.655, RCW.

5.3. Any student whose ALE enrollment is claimed as greater than 0.8 full-time equivalent in any one month through the January count date must be included by the district in any required state or federal accountability reporting for that school year, subject to existing state and federal accountability rules and procedures.

5.4. Students enrolled as nonresident students in ALE courses or course work who are unable to participate in required annual state assessments at the district will have the opportunity to participate in such required annual state assessments at the district of physical residence, subject to that district's planned testing schedule.

5.4.1. As the nonresident enrolling district, the district will establish a written agreement with the district of physical residence that facilitates all necessary coordination between the districts and with the student and, where appropriate, the student's parent(s) to fulfill this requirement. Such coordination may include:

(a) Arranging for appropriate assessment materials.

- (b) Notifying the student of assessment administration schedules.
 - (c) Arranging for the forwarding of completed assessment materials to the enrolling district for submission for scoring and reporting.
 - (d) Arranging for any allowable testing accommodations, and other steps as may be necessary.
- 5.4.2. The agreement may include rates and terms for payment of reasonable fees by the enrolling district to the district of physical residence to cover costs associated with planning for and administering the assessments to students not enrolled in the district of physical residence.
- 5.4.3. Assessment results for students assessed according to these provisions must be included in the enrolling district's accountability measurements, and not in the district of physical residence's accountability measurements.

6. ALE PROGRAM DROP-OUTS

As the district offering or contracting to offer an ALE course to a nonresident student, the district will inform the resident school district if the student drops out of the course or is otherwise no longer enrolled.

Related Procedures

2255P1-Alternative Learning Experience Program

Policy Cross References

2020-Curriculum Development and Adoption of Instructional Materials

2024-Online Learning

Policy Legal References

RCW 28A.150.305 – Alternative educational service providers — Student eligibility

RCW 28A.230.010 – Alternative learning experience courses – Generally – Rules – Reports

RCW 28A.250.050 – Student access to online courses and online learning programs — Policies and procedures — Dissemination of information — Development of local or regional online learning programs

WAC 392-121-107 – Definition-Course of study

WAC 392-121-182 – Alternative learning experience requirements

WAC 392-121-188 – Instruction provided under contract

Management Resources

Policy & Legal News, April 2017 – Other Updates

Policy & Legal News, February 2014 – Other updates/Corrections

Policy & Legal News, February 2013 – Corrections

Policy News, October 2012 – Alternative Learning Experience

Policy News, October 2011 – Alternative Learning Experience

Policy History

Action:	Date:
Approved by the Board	February 13, 2002
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