

Alternative Learning Experience Program

Purpose

This procedure outlines the requirements of the district's Alternative Learning Experience (ALE) program.

Scope

This procedure guides district administration, staff, students and parents or guardians.

Procedure

1. GENERAL GUIDELINES/DEFINITIONS

- 1.1. "Alternative learning experience" (ALE) means a course or, for grades kindergarten through eight, grade-level course work, that is a delivery method of basic education and is provided in whole or in part independently from a regular classroom setting or schedule, but may include components of direct instruction.
- 1.2. ALE courses are supervised, monitored, assessed, evaluated and documented by a certificated teacher employed or contracted by the district.
- 1.3. ALE courses are provided in accordance with a written student learning plan (WSLP) that is implemented pursuant to the district's policy and WAC 392-121-182.
- 1.4. "Online courses" are courses or grade-level coursework where:
 - (a) More than half of the course content is delivered electronically using the internet or other computer-based methods.
 - (b) More than half of the teaching is conducted from a remote location through an online course learning management system or other online or electronic tools.
 - (c) A certificated teacher has the primary responsibility for the student's instructional interaction. Instructional interaction between the teacher and the student includes, but is not limited to, direct instruction, review of assignments, assessment, testing, progress monitoring, and educational facilitation.
 - (d) Students have access to the teacher synchronously, asynchronously, or both.
- 1.5. "Remote course" means an ALE course or course work that is not an online course where the student has in-person instructional contact time for less than twenty percent (20%) of the total weekly time for the course.
- 1.6. "Site-based course" means an alternative learning experience course or course work that is not an online course where the student has in-person instructional contact time for at least twenty percent of the total weekly time for the course.

2. STUDENT ELIGIBILITY

- 2.1. ALE courses will be available to all students, including students with disabilities.
- 2.2. All students in grades K-8 are eligible to participate in ALE programs.
- 2.3. Parents or guardians who wish to enroll their student(s) in an ALE program are interviewed by district ALE enrollment and academic advisors to ensure the program is a good fit for students.

3. STUDENT PERFORMANCE

- 3.1. Students participating in ALE will be evaluated monthly by a certificated instructional staff, or, for students whose written student learning plans include only online classes, school-based support staff may be used, to track student progress toward completion and to establish whether an intervention plan should be developed, in accordance with WAC 392-121-182.
- 3.2. The methods for determining satisfactory progress shall be outlined in the written student learning plan and may include:
 - (a) Progress grades
 - (b) Assignment completion rates
 - (c) Non-academic factors such as attendance, attitude, and behavior
 - (d) School program expectations

4. STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

- 4.1. Students enrolled in an ALE program must meet the contact requirements defined in WAC 392-121-182. One of the following methods of contact must occur at least once a week:
 - 4.1.1. Direct personal contact in a one-on-one meeting with the certificated teacher accomplished in person or by telephone, email, instant messaging, interactive video communication or other means for the purposes of instruction, review of assignments, testing, evaluation of progress or other learning activities identified and/or related to the WSLP.
 - 4.1.2. In-person instructional contact with the certificated teacher in a classroom environment for the purposes listed in 4.1.1.
 - 4.1.3. Synchronous digital contact, or real-time communication between the student and certificated teacher using interactive online, voice or video communication technology for the purposes listed in 4.1.1. Contact may be accomplished in group settings with multiple students.
- 4.2. Student roles and responsibilities are defined in the following support article:
<https://support.mycva.org/hc/en-us/articles204635948-Student-Role>

5. PARENT RESPONSIBILITIES

- 5.1. Upon receipt of the district's description of the difference between home-based instruction and ALE, the parent must sign documentation attesting that he/she understands the difference.
- 5.2. Parents of out-of-district students must request a transfer to Valley School District by submitting a Choice Transfer Request form to the student's resident school district.
- 5.3. Parent roles and responsibilities are defined in the following support article:
<https://support.mycva.org/hc/en-us/articles/205296537-Parent-Role>

6. VERIFICATION OF STUDENT WORK

The district will use reliable methods to verify a student is doing his/her own work. These include, but are not limited to:

- (a) Proctored examinations
- (b) Proctored projects
- (c) In-person presentations
- (d) Real-time presentations using videoconference technology

Supporting Documentation

OSPI's Digital Learning Department website: <http://digitalllearning.k12.wa.us/>

Learning by Choice: Student Enrollment Options in Washington; OSPI 2014

Document History

Action:	Date:
New	January 16, 2013
Revised	October 15, 2014
Revised	September 20, 2017
Revised	