

ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION

The partner schools of Southwest Technology Center have taken steps to provide an alternative education program that conforms to the requirements of state law and rules applicable to alternative education. Upon formal agreement with the partner schools, one district will be designated at the official LEA with Southwest Technology Center providing the facility and day-to-day supervision. Teachers for this program will be employed by the designated LEA.

The purpose of Southwest Alternative Cooperative Education (SWACE) is to provide alternative education to students of the independent school districts that are members of SWACE. "Alternative education" means "an educational process incorporating appropriate structure, curriculum, interaction, and reinforcement strategies to stimulate learning with students who have not utilized their capacity to do so within traditional education settings." In providing an alternative education program, SWACE will include, but not be limited to, a program that shall:

1. Allow class sizes and student/teacher ratios conducive to effective learning for at-risk students;
2. Incorporate appropriate structure, curriculum, and interaction and reinforcement strategies designed to provide effective instruction;
3. Include an intake and screening process to determine eligibility of students;
4. Demonstrate that teaching faculty are appropriately licensed or certified teachers;
5. Demonstrate that teaching faculty have been selected on the basis of a record of successful work with at-risk students or personal and educational factors that qualify them for work with at-risk students;
6. Reflect appropriate collaborative efforts with state agencies and local agencies serving youth;
7. Provide courses that meet the academic curricula standards adopted by the State Board of Education and additional remedial courses;
8. Offer individualized instruction;
9. State clear and measurable program goals and objectives;
10. Include counseling and social services components with the provision that providers of services are not required to be certified as school counselors;
11. Require a plan leading to graduation be developed for each student in the program that will allow the student to participate in graduation exercises for the school district after meeting all of the graduation requirements of the school district.
12. Offer life skills instruction;
13. Provide opportunity for arts education to students, including Artists in Residence programs coordinated with the Oklahoma Arts Council;
14. Provide a proposed annual budget;

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15. Include an evaluation component including an annual written self-evaluation;
16. Be appropriately designed to serve middle school, junior high school, and secondary school students in grades nine through twelve who are most at risk of not completing a high school education for a reason other than the need for special education and related services as identified in 70 O.S. §13-10, and;

The alternative education program shall be operational and serving students by September 15, of each school year.

Any equipment or material purchased with revenue received for students participating in SWACE shall be used only in or directly for the alternative education program offered by SWACE during the hours the alternative education program is in operation. The equipment or materials may be used for other purposes during hours when the alternative education program is not in operation.

If a program will serve fewer than ten (10) students, the alternative education program shall be offered by the district through an interlocal cooperative in which the district participates, unless the program has been granted a waiver from this requirement by the State Department of Education.

**REFERENCE: 70 O.S. §1210.568
70 O.S. §1210.569
Board Minutes dated October 8, 2003**

**CROSS-REFERENCE: Interlocal Agreement To Provide Alternative Education Through The Southwest
Alternative Cooperative Education
Parent/Student Handbook**