

District School Conversion to an Alternative School

When a decision is made to implement or relocate an alternative program which necessitates closing a regular district school, interested school communities, through the school's Local School Advisory Committee, may apply for consideration as the program's site. The Superintendent – after considering such applications, together with site recommendations from the administrative staff, and after consultation with all the affected school communities – will make a site recommendation to the Board in June of the year preceding the opening of the alternative.

While every attempt will be made to place an alternative school at a site making application for the program, other circumstances may dictate placement of the designated alternative school at a specific site. For example, analysis may indicate that a particular placement will achieve a desired reduction in racial isolation or that a particular site is the only one feasible to accommodate the alternative and prevent the overcrowding of schools receiving redistricted pupils.

Site selection will be consistent with Board goals for reducing racial isolation. Through the period of the Settlement Agreement and to the extent consistent with sound educational planning, new alternatives will be located at schools which, at the time of implementing such alternatives, are composed of students 80% or more of one race.

SITE DESIGNATION PROCESS

1. At its first regular meeting in March of the year prior to the opening of a new alternative, the Board will conduct a public hearing regarding programs and specify the basic guidelines and implications for becoming an alternative school. Site requirements will also be delineated at this hearing, together with a financial impact statement.
2. Interested school communities will notify the Superintendent in writing no later than March 31 of their interest in applying to be the site for one of the announced new alternatives.
3. By the first full week in April, a Site Selection Committee appointed by the Superintendent will recommend appropriate sites for installing the new alternative(s), which may or may not include sites that have applied. This recommendation will occur only after the designated community has been informed of the intended recommendation through the school's LSAC.

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4. At its second regular meeting in April, the Board will hear the Superintendent's tentative site recommendation for each new alternative.
5. Prior to the Board's first regular meeting in June, staff of the Alternative/Settlement Office will meet with LSAC's community councils and other interested groups from each of the school communities that applied for consideration or were designated as a prospective site. The purpose of these meetings will be to explain the anticipated moves, obtain understanding of and support for the proposed changes, and solicit input about those changes.
6. At a public hearing during the Board's first regular meeting in June, interested or affected school communities will submit their reactions to the proposed changes for Board consideration.
7. At its second regular meeting in June one year prior to the opening of a new alternative, the Board – after considering community and parental response, the recommendations of the Superintendent, and the impact on reducing racial isolation – will approve programs and sites for the announced alternatives.

ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

1. If a district school is being closed to permit the opening of an alternative, its pupils may apply for admission to any alternative at the same time that the district-wide priority period is being conducted. This consideration will be effective for one year only.

In following years, pupils from the closed district school, having been reassigned to another district school, may apply for alternatives in the same way as other pupils from that school. If their new district school has an enrollment 90% or more of one race and they are a member of that race, they may enroll during the priority period. If not, they may apply during the normal application period.

2. Reference should be made to Administrative Procedure 3520.1 for the specific steps and activities carried out by the administration to accomplish the terms of this policy.

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Adopted: 9/9/85

Revised: 3/13/89

Rescinded: 9/13/07

Reinstated: 11/7/07