



Alternative Education

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Approved by: Lizzette Gonzalez Reynolds, Commissioner	

General¹

The Achievement School District (ASD) remains responsible for all students assigned to it, including students that may be suspended for disciplinary reasons. In the event that ASD wishes to pursue alternative school placement for any of its students, Shelby County Schools or Metro Nashville Public Schools may, but is not required to, provide a placement in one of its alternative schools, at a per daily cost basis to the ASD.

An alternative school is a short-term intervention program designed to provide educational services outside the regular school program for students who have been suspended or remanded. The alternative school is located in a separate facility from the regular school program.

An alternative program is a short-term intervention program designed to provide educational services outside the regular school program for students who have been suspended or expelled. Alternative programs may be located within the regular school or be a self-contained program within a school.

The alternative school and/or program shall be operated in accordance with state laws and the rules of the State Board of Education, and instruction shall proceed as nearly as practicable in accordance with the instructional program at the student's regular school. The superintendent shall develop procedures that provide appropriate educational opportunities for all students assigned to the alternative school or program. These educational opportunities shall adhere to Tennessee's academic standards.²

¹ Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-6-3402;TRR/MS 0520-01-02-.09

² TRR/MS 0520-01-02-.09(9)(a)

ASSIGNMENT

Students who have been suspended for more than ten (10) days or expelled shall be assigned to the alternative school or program if there is staff and space available.³ Availability of staff and space shall be determined at the time the disciplinary decision is rendered. The superintendent/designee shall make this determination by evaluating factors including, but not limited to, the following:

1. Level of supervision available;
2. Safety considerations; and
3. Type of infraction.

The superintendent/designee is not required to assign a student to the alternative school or program if the student committed one of the following:

1. A zero-tolerance offense;⁴ or
2. An offense of violence or threatened violence, or an offense that threatened the safety of other students at the school, if the location of the alternative school or program is on the same grounds as the school from which the student was disciplined, or assigning the student to that location would endanger the safety of the students or staff.⁵

Consideration to assign these students to the alternative school or program will be determined by the superintendent/designee on a case-by-case basis.

Prior to the assignment of the student to the alternative school or program, the superintendent/designee shall provide written notice to the student's parent/guardian stating the reason for the student's placement.⁶

Placement in an alternative education setting shall be reserved for students who significantly disrupt the educational process. If a student has an active Individualized Education Plan, a 504 plan, or is suspected of having a disability, all state and federal laws and rules and regulations related to special education shall be followed. The superintendent/designee shall develop procedures regarding placement of students in the program, taking into consideration the impact of exclusionary discipline practices.⁷

The superintendent/designee shall monitor and regularly evaluate the academic progress of each student enrolled in the alternative school.

³ Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-6-3402(c)(1)(A)

⁴ TRR/MS 0520-01-02-.09(6)(a); Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-6-3402(c)(1)(B)

⁵ Public Acts of 2021, Chapter No. 229

⁶ TRR/MS 0520-01-02-.09(9)(i)

⁷ TRR/MS 0520-01-02-.09(9)(h)

REMOVAL⁸

A student may be removed from the alternative school or program if:

1. The student violates the rules of the alternative school or program; or
2. The student is not benefitting from the assignment and all interventions have been exhausted unsuccessfully.

ADDITIONAL OFFENSES⁹

Any new disciplinary offense committed during a student's original suspension or expulsion period shall be treated as a new and separate offense. These offenses shall not constitute an extension of the original suspension or expulsion.

TRANSITION PLAN¹⁰

The superintendent/designee shall develop procedures regarding the implementation of transition plans for the integration of students assigned to the alternative school.

⁸ Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-6-3402(c)(2)(A)

⁹ TRR/MS 0520-01-02-.09(9)(g)(2)

¹⁰ TRR/MS 0520-01-02-.09(9)(m)