



Calgary Board of Education
Educating Tomorrow's Citizens Today

Calgary Board of Education Alternative Program Proposal

Section 21 of the *School Act* (Appendix I) defines alternative programs as programs based on language, culture, religion, subject matter or pedagogy. They are not special needs programs or francophone programs. They are programs of parental or student choice and school districts are enabled, but not required to offer them.

This model makes explicit the process that will be used to screen alternative program proposals received from agencies outside the Calgary Board of Education (CBE). External proposals will be respectfully and carefully screened with reference to the clear values and priorities of the CBE. These values include, but may not be restricted to the Statement of Vision, Statement of Purpose, the Working Relationships Commitment, the Board's Strategic Directions, the operations policies of the Chief Superintendent and the Provincial Program of Studies. Additionally, no alternative program will be approved unless it is consistent with the provisions of the School Act and other pertinent legislation.

In May 2000, the Board of Trustees received and endorsed a report, "Alternate Programs of Choice". Proposals for all programs must reflect the four values of **equity**, **access**, **excellence** and **choice** (Appendix II).

ALTERNATIVE PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION MODEL

The model incorporates three phases:

PHASE 1 - SUBMISSION OF PROPOSAL

PHASE 2 - CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSAL

PHASE 3 - IMPLEMENTATION OF APPROVED PROPOSAL

PHASE 1 – SUBMISSION OF PROPOSAL

Proponents submit a proposal to the Area Director. Proposals must address the four values of **equity, access, excellence and choice**.

A proposal for Alternative Programs must include the following elements:

1. Author(s) of the proposal

- a. Contact name
- b. Address
- c. Telephone
- d. Fax/email
- e. Name of organizing committee
- f. Committee's related experience

2. Background Information address: equity, access, excellence and choice

- a. Rationale (distinguishing features of the program)
- b. Degree of demand and support documentation
- c. Measurable objectives
- d. Supporting Research for the educational program
- e. Partnerships or sponsors (if applicable)

3. Program Philosophy And Goals

Consistency with the Calgary Board of Education's statements of Mission, Vision and Purpose

4. Organizational Plan

- a. Intended student numbers
- b. Intended student age/grades
- c. Catchment Area
- d. Transportation of Students plan
- e. Lunchroom plan
- f. Provisions for Instruction
- g. Anticipated staff requirements
- h. Human Resources Implications
- i. Preferred area of the city for this program
- j. Type of Facility
 - elementary, junior or senior high
 - number of classrooms required
 - administration area (if required)
 - proximity requirements
- k. Facility needs

- I. 3-Year Business Plan:
 - identify costs above basic student funding (e.g. any costs associated with facility, curriculum needs, staff, transportation, technology)
 - identify sources of revenue
 - identify assumptions related to sources and amounts
 - identify amount of current financial resources
 - include an audited financial statement if a society is involved
 - include capital costs such as equipment and furnishings
 - identify all previous and potential in-kind contributions
 - student enrolment projections

5. Educational Plan

- a. Accountability Plan (synchronized with the CBE's Accountability Requirements)
- b. Market analysis support (to demonstrate parent commitment)
- c. Communication plan with chronology of dates
- d. Student selection criteria
- e. Student selection process
- f. Student evaluation information
- g. Alignment with Alberta Learning Program of Studies
- h. Demonstration of how Instructional Requirement time will be met (Grades 1 through 9 – 950 hours of instruction, Grades 10 through 12 – 1,000 hours of instruction)
- i. Curriculum and instructional materials to be used
- j. Other resources (including technologies) to be used
- k. Professional development plan
- l. Sustainability of program (for support staff, teachers, resources, teaching/learning practice, funding)

6. Implementation Plan

- a. Proposed start date
- b. Parental involvement
- c. Representation on School Council
- d. Strategic action
- e. Communication plan
- f. Timeline for program implementation in the following school year

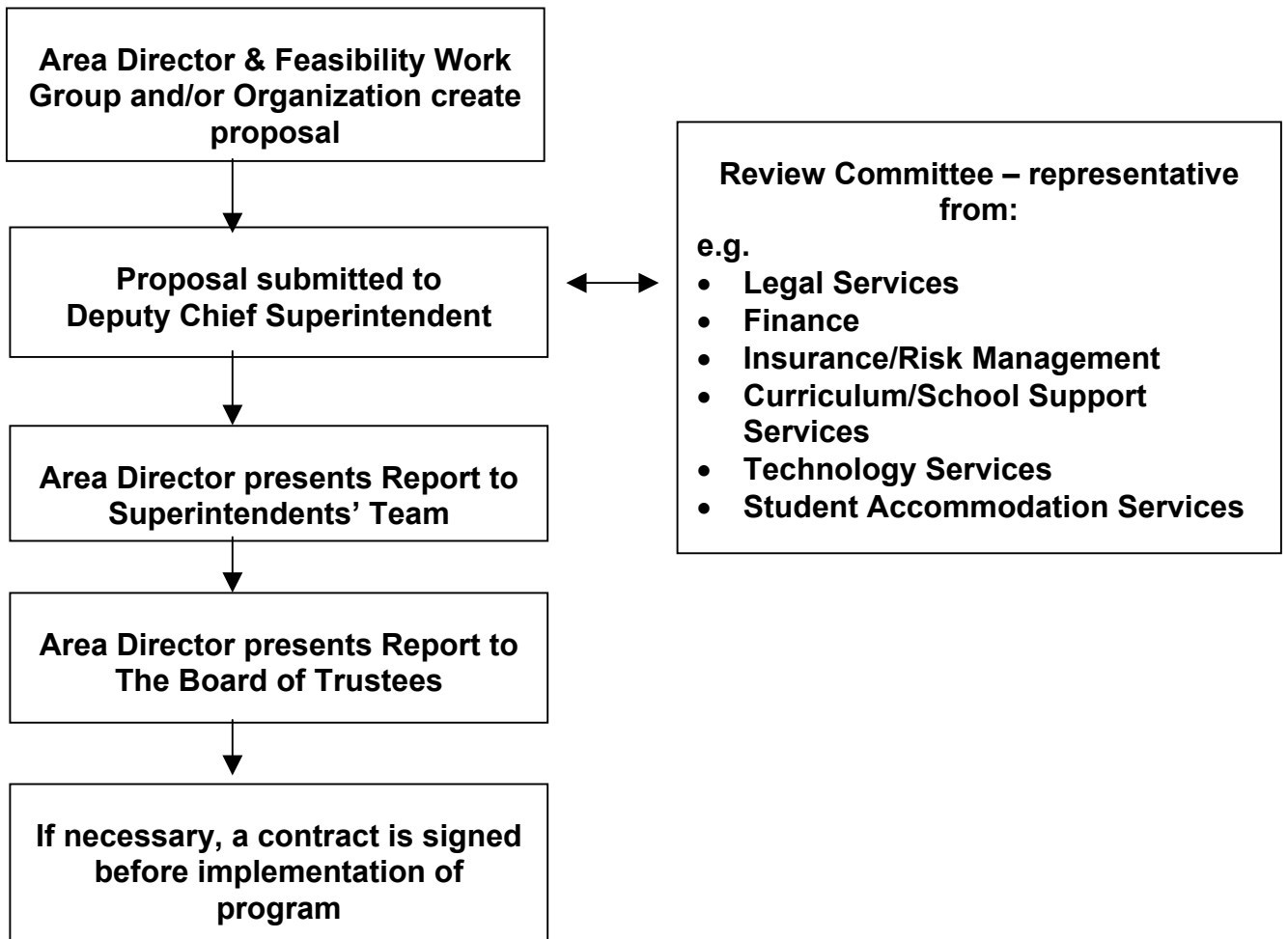
7. Program Evaluation Plan

- a. How you will evaluate equity, access, excellence and choice
- b. Stakeholder involvement
- c. Process
- d. Timelines/strategies/actions/expected results
- e. Student success

PHASE 2 – CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSAL

The diagram shows the filters through which a proposal is considered for approval or refusal.

Throughout this phase, continual feedback is provided to the program initiator from the Area Director, who is in ongoing consultation with other Area Directors and the Deputy Chief Superintendent.



PHASE 3 – IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROPOSAL

Action and Communication Plan

School Act

- Alternative programs
- 21 (1)** In this section, “alternative program” means an education program that:
- (a) emphasizes a particular language, culture, religion or subject-matter, or
 - (b) uses a particular teaching philosophy,
- but that is not a special education program, a program referred to in section 10 or a program of religious education offered by a separate school board.
- (2)** If a board determines that there is sufficient demand for a particular alternative program, the board may offer that program to those students whose parents enroll them in the program.
- (3)** A board that offers an alternative program shall continue to offer the regular education program to those students whose parents do not enroll them in the alternative program.
- (4)** If a parent enrolls a student in an alternative program, the board may charge that parent fees for the purpose of defraying all or a portion of any non-instructional costs that
- (a) may be incurred by the board in offering the alternative program, and
 - (b) are in addition to the costs incurred by the board in providing its regular education program.

PROGRAM PROPOSAL

Appendix II

Glossary Of Terms

Access means available to, i.e. a program cannot deny access to any student who meets the selection criteria and where there is sufficient space and resources are available.

Accountability means responsible and answerable for.

Alternative Program means a program that emphasizes a particular language or subject matter; or uses a particular teaching philosophy or methodology. These are **not** special needs programs or francophone programs. They are programs of parent or student choice. School districts are enabled but not required to offer alternative programs.

Choice means option, i.e. an alternative program or a program of renewal will be an option for all eligible students of the CBE. Parents and students have increased opportunity to choose public education options that best serve students needs and interests.

Equity means that decisions and actions are grounded in principles of social justice and democracy that improve educational experience and set high expectations of success for all students irrespective of differences of race, gender, disability and economic status and includes differential educational treatments in relation to need and circumstance.

Excellence refers to quality learning processes and outcomes as described in the Calgary Board of Education's Quality Learning document.

Program Renewal means evaluating what we offer at any time and considering what works well and what will work better. It means constantly seeking out new opportunities to provide our children with unique and comprehensive learning experiences and to find methods of reaching all students, no matter their learning style or interests. Program Renewal also includes:

- ◆ opening new schools
- ◆ relocating programs to meet new community requirements
- ◆ creating new school boundaries for improved access to program
- ◆ new ways of building relationships between the education community and the public

All program renewal decisions are based on the key principles of equity, access, excellence and choice.

For Assistance

Please call the Calgary Board of Education at (403) 294-8211 to obtain contact information for Area Directors.