



Calgary Board of Education
Educating Tomorrow's Citizens Today

Calgary Board of Education Alternative Program Replication

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 REPLICATION MODEL

The model incorporates three phases:

PHASE 1 – DETERMINE PROGRAM NEED/LOCATION

PHASE 2 – CONSIDERATION OF PROGRAM REPLICATION

PHASE 3 – REPLICATION OF PROGRAM

PHASE 1 – DETERMINE PROGRAM NEED/LOCATION

- a) Create an Area program profile. The program profile should include alternative programs, special education, AISI and school ethos. Ideally, this profile will include a community assets inventory which could improve stewardship and public relations in support of the program and the Calgary Board of Education.
- b) Analyze the Area program profile including private and charter schools in the Area. Refer to the following Web site for a list of charter, private, francophone and separate schools: <http://www.learning.gov.ab.ca/ei/maps/>.
- c) To determine the level of interest in the program, gather data based on:
 - information about the mandate of private and charter schools in the Area (see <http://www.learning.gov.ab.ca/ei/maps/>)
 - information from surveys and public meetings
 - response to public interest
- d) If numbers warrant further consideration of program replication, provide Student Accommodation Services with the addresses of those who have expressed interest. Based on this, Student Accommodation Services provides school location suggestions.
- e) Based on the school location suggestions, assess the implementation consequences including financial impact for each site.
- f) From the suggestions from Student Accommodation Services, the Area Director(s) initiate a community information and input process with stakeholders at the site(s) being considered for the program (see Community Information and Input Process document).

PHASE 2 – CONSIDERATION OF PROGRAM REPLICATION

- a) Present the Report to the Superintendents' Team for their approval.

PHASE 3 – REPLICATION OF PROGRAM

- a) Action the Implementation and Communication Plan. Notify System Coordinator, Program Renewal of the program's new location.
- b) Create Legal Agreements document, if required.
- c) Create Quality Control document, if required.
- d) Send letter of congratulations and program responsibility to the principal of the school where the program is replicated. Copy this letter to appropriate parties.

Appendix I

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

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.