

Dickson County Board of Education

Monitoring: Review: Annually, in March	Descriptor Term: Alternative Education	Descriptor Code: 6.318	Issued Date: 08/22/24
		Rescinds: 6.318	Issued: 09/24/20

1 *General*¹

2 The Board shall operate an alternative school and/or program for students who have been suspended or
3 expelled from the regular school program. Attendance in the alternative school program shall be
4 mandatory and bus transportation may be provided, on a hardship basis, at the discretion of the Director
5 of Schools or his/her designee.

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

9 Teachers in alternative schools shall be certified by the state and shall be selected on the basis of
10 interest and ability to work in alternative situations. Student –teacher ratios shall be small enough to
11 allow for adequate instruction but shall be determined by age, behavior and academic achievement of
12 students in the program.

13 Sufficient textbooks, equipment, instructional materials, and supplies shall be provided by the home
14 school.

15 The alternative school and/or program shall be operated in accordance with state laws and the rules of
16 the State Board of Education, and instruction shall proceed as nearly as practicable in accordance with
17 the instructional program at the student’s regular school. All course work completed and credits
18 earned in the alternative school shall be transferred to and recorded in the student’s home school.
19 Credit earned and progress made shall be granted as if the work were performed in the home school.

20 The Director of Schools shall develop procedures that provide appropriate educational opportunities
21 for all students assigned to the alternative school or program. These educational opportunities shall
22 adhere to Tennessee’s academic standards.²

23 **ASSIGNMENT**

24 Students who have been suspended for more than ten (10) days or expelled shall be assigned to the
25 alternative school or program if there is staff and space available.³ Availability of staff and space shall
26 be determined at the time the disciplinary decision is rendered. The Director of Schools/designee shall

1 make this determination by evaluating factors including, but not limited to, the following:

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

5 Students who have committed zero tolerance offenses are not required to be assigned to alternative
6 schools or programs.⁴

7 Prior to the assignment of the student to the alternative school or program, the Director of
8 Schools/designee shall provide written notice to the student's parent/guardian stating the reason for the
9 student's placement.⁵

10 Placement in an alternative education setting shall be reserved for students who significantly disrupt
11 the educational process. If a student has an active Individualized Education Plan, a 504 plan, or is
12 suspected of having a disability, all state and federal laws and rules and regulations related to special
13 education shall be followed. The Director of Schools/designee shall develop procedures regarding
14 placement of students in the program, taking into consideration the impact of exclusionary discipline
15 practices.⁶

16 The Director of Schools/designee shall monitor and regularly evaluate the academic progress of each
17 student enrolled in the alternative school.

18 Students found to be eligible for special education in related circumstances shall be placed and served
19 in accordance with the law and rules relating to special education.

20 REMOVAL⁷

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

- 22 1. He/she violates the rules of the alternative school or program; or
- 23 2. He/she is not benefitting from the assignment and all interventions have been exhausted
24 unsuccessfully.

25 ADDITIONAL OFFENSES⁸

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

1 TRANSITION PLAN⁹

- 2 The Director of Schools/designee shall develop procedures regarding the implementation of transition
3 plans for the integration of students assigned to the alternative school.

Legal References

1. TCA 49-6-3402(a); Public Acts of 2020, Chapter No. 603; TRR/MS 0520-01-02-.09
2. TRR/MS 0520-01-02-.09(9)(a)
3. Public Acts of 2020, Chapter No. 603
4. Public Acts of 2020, Chapter No. 603;
5. TRR/MS 0520-01-02-.09(6)(a)
6. TRR/MS 0520-01-02-.09(9)(i)

Cross References

Special Education 4.202
Suspension 6.316
Student Disciplinary Hearing Authority 6.317
Special Education Students 6.500