



## Alternative Education Policy and Procedure Review and Program Evaluation

In order to serve all students and provide innovative and flexible ways of educating children, Oregon public school districts may establish alternative education options within the public school system.

Based on statute, the school district board has two major responsibilities, specific to alternative education:

1. Adopt and implement policies and procedures for the approval and annual evaluation, notification, placement of students, claiming of State School funds and data reporting for all public and private alternative programs that receive public funds; and,
2. Evaluate the alternative program, at least annually.

While there are many components of that must be addressed in the annual evaluation of alternative education programs, the primary goal of the evaluation is to ensure that:

- Students are learning
- Students are safe
- Public funds are being appropriately managed and expended.

The Northwest Center for Educational Options, as part of the district menu of services, offers a review of district policies and procedures and an alternative education program evaluation, as per applicable statutes and rules. The following table provides information on each of these services:

| <b>Elements</b>        | <b>Review of District Alternative Education Policies and Procedures</b>  | <b>Evaluation of Alternative Education Programs</b>  |
|------------------------|--|--|
| <b>Purpose</b>         | To ensure a school district has adopted and implemented the most current alternative education policies and procedures.  | To evaluate the alternative education programs a district operates, participates in or contracts with to ensure that: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Students are learning</li> <li>2. Students are safe</li> <li>3. Public funds are being appropriately managed and expended</li> </ol>   |
| <b>Recommended Use</b> | Initial review of district alternative policies and procedures   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For required annual evaluation</li> <li>• For those programs over which there are concerns</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Approach</b>        | <p>Two basic questions will be explored:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Does the school district have alternative education policies and procedures in place that are mandated by law and based on best practice?</li> <li>2. Are the alternative education policies and procedures being faithfully implemented?</li> </ol> <p>These questions will be answered by reviewing foundational documents and interviewing key district and alternative education program staff. The basic review includes a report of the findings.</p> | <p>The in-depth evaluation will explore three broad questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Are students learning?</li> <li>2. Are students safe?</li> <li>3. Are public funds being properly managed and expended?</li> </ol> <p>This thorough, in-depth review includes an alternative program staff/board self-evaluation, a review of the foundational documents, site visit, comprehensive report and executive summary of the findings. There will also be recommendations for the development of an action plan, if necessary.</p> |



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| The primary tool for the alternative education program evaluation is the <b>NWCEO Alternative Education Quality Evaluation Rubric</b> . This rubric outlines specific, objective criteria that are based on Oregon law and an accumulation of accountability best practices for private and public alternative programs. |  |  |
| <b>Timeframe</b>   | Requires approximately 20 NWCEO hours.<br>Two-three week timeframe   | Requires approximately 40 NWCEO hours<br>Six to eight week timeframe   |
| <b>Cost</b>  | NWCEO Membership Rate \$2,500<br>Non-membership Rate \$3,000   | NWCEO Membership Rate \$5,000<br>Non-membership Rate \$6,000   |
| <b>Personnel</b>   | The NWCEO staff is highly experienced in the many facets of alternative education, in particular accountability and oversight. | The NWCEO staff is highly experienced in the many facets of alternative education, in particular accountability and oversight. |

*Please note, "program" refers to a school, class or other grouping.*

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