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## **ALTERNATIVE PROGRAMS**

To provide for parental choice and to meet specific student learning needs, Alternative Programs may be offered in Fort McMurray Catholic Schools.

### **Definition**

As referenced from Section 21 of the School Act, “Alternative Program” means an education program that:

- Emphasizes a particular language, culture, religion or subject matter, or
- Uses a particular teaching philosophy,

but that is not a special education program as described in Section 47 of the School Act, a program referred to in Section 10 of the School Act (Francophone education) or a program of religious education offered by a separate school board.

For purposes of this Policy, the terms “alternative program” and “program of choice” are synonymous.

### **Specifically**

1. To be considered for development and continued support, an Alternative Program shall:
  - 1.1 Follow all Fort McMurray Catholic School District policies and regulations, unless specifically exempted by the Board;
  - 1.2 Enroll numbers of students sufficient to warrant the program;
  - 1.3 Not infringe on the rights of other students;
  - 1.4 Follow Alberta Education curriculum;
  - 1.5 Be integrated, whenever possible, within existing schools;
  - 1.6 Be financially viable;
  - 1.7 Ensure that transportation to and from the Program occurs at no additional cost to the Board;
  - 1.8 Ensure that staff are employed, evaluated and responsible to the Fort McMurray Catholic School District according to District policy;
  - 1.9 Accept that the Board may charge a fee for non-instructional costs to parents who wish to enroll their children in an Alternative Program; and
  - 1.10 Not be eligible for equity funding.
2. Proponents shall submit a proposal to establish an Alternative Program to the Superintendent
3. Each Alternative Program proposal must include the following elements:

- 3.1 Background research;
  - 3.2 Philosophy, objectives and mission statement;
  - 3.3 Distinguishing feature of the Alternative Program;
  - 3.4 Operational budget;
  - 3.5 Staffing profiles desirable to meet the Alternative Program objectives;
  - 3.6 Evaluation of Alternative Program methodology and objectives;
  - 3.7 Projected student population and geographical location/ages and ages/grades of students;
  - 3.8 Transportation of students to and from the Alternative Program;
  - 3.9 Curriculum and instructional materials in addition to Alberta Education curriculum; and
4. When the proposal is deemed to be complete, the Superintendent will arrange for the originators to make a presentation of the proposal to the Board.
  5. If the proposal is accepted by the Board, detailed preparation (timelines, transportation, student recruitment, staffing, location, administrative services and fees, if required) will be carried out through the office of the Superintendent.
  6. The Alternative Program will be reviewed on an ongoing basis by the Superintendent to assess its viability.

Legal Reference: Sections 10, 13, 20, 21, 22, 47, 60, 61, 113 School Act