

Alternative Programs in the Christina School District 2009 – 2010

What is Alternative Placement?

Alternative placements are intended to be short term educational placements for students who violate the Christina School District Student Code of Conduct and for those students returning from placement in an Outside Agency (examples include, but are not limited to youth detention facility, substance abuse facility, mental health facility). In addition, *A student alternatively placed for behavior from another school, school district or state upon enrolling in the Christina School District shall be alternatively placed in accordance with the original terms of the alternative placement or as determined by the Superintendent/Superintendent's designee.*

Students who are expelled from the Christina School District may be assigned to an alternative educational program for the term of their expulsion.

What is a District Alternative Placement Hearing?

When the District accepts a building level recommendation for an Alternative Placement Hearing, the District Discipline Committee will review all evidence pertaining to the alleged violation of the Student Code of Conduct. The Committee's charge is to determine if Due Process was followed at the building and based on the facts of the incident as presented to determine if the student violated the Student Code of Conduct. The Committee shall determine if a student will be alternatively placed. The Committee will also determine what alternative placement program is in the best interest of the child. The parent/guardian will be notified by building administration of the date for the Alternative Placement Hearing. All good faith efforts will be made to provide for the parent/guardian's presence. However, a District Alternative Placement Hearing **may occur with or without parent/guardian's presence if they do not appear and/or do not give notice of their absence.** After the Alternative Placement Hearing, the student and the student's parents/guardians will be given written notice of placement decision.

What can I expect if my child is placed in an alternative program?

- **The process**

- ✓ **Intake Meeting**

An intake meeting is a mandatory meeting generally held at the alternative school. It is important that the student attends the meeting with a parent/guardian. An overview of the program will be given in addition to important information regarding goals and expectations.

✓ **Goals and Expectations**

All students who are alternatively placed must successfully meet the goals and expectations discussed at the onset of the placement before they can return to the comprehensive school.

These include:

- **Attendance**
 - A student must be in attendance at least 90% of the time during their term of placement.
 - This includes excused and unexcused absences.
- **Behavior and Attitude**
 - A student may not have any out-of-school suspensions.
 - A student must exhibit consistent positive behavior during their placement.
 - Disruptive and/or inappropriate behaviors must diminish during the placement.
 - A student must participate in individual and group counseling his/her during placement.
- **Academic Performance**
 - A student must exhibit consistent academic progress during his/her placement.

✓ **Transition**

If a student has met the criteria for return to the comprehensive school, representatives from the alternative program, comprehensive school, student and parent/guardian are required (by Delaware State Code) to meet to plan a smooth transition

• **Reviews**

A review will take place to determine if the student has met the goals and expectations for attendance, behavior and academics. Student reviews take place quarterly at the end of the first, second, third, and fourth marking periods. If the student has met these goals and expectations, he/she will be recommended to return to the comprehensive school. If these goals are not met, the term of the student's term of alternative placement will be extended.

If a student does not exhibit progress over a period of time while in an alternative program, the student may be transferred to a different alternative educational program at the District's discretion.

• **Services available to students and families.**

At the alternative placement programs, smaller teacher to student ratio, group and individual counseling services, family counseling, opportunities to engage in community service, service learning, behavior plans, character education, behavior modification and re-direction services are offered to attendees.

- **Programs**

- ✓ **Douglass K – 8**

The mission of the Joseph Douglass School, an instructional environment providing a choice for students who have experienced difficulties in a traditional setting, is to provide personalized opportunities for academic and social growth through flexible programming responsive to abilities and learning needs and through collaboration among staff, students, families and community.

- ✓ **Douglass Alternative Distance Education Program**

The Christina School District offers a unique Distance Education Program to high school students who are precluded from attending the comprehensive school. This may include students who are alternatively placed, expelled or transitioning back into public education from an Outside Agency.

The Distance Education Program enables students to access and complete core curriculum courses required for high school graduation. This web based program utilizes instructional technology to promote accelerated mastery of concepts and credit retrieval. Learning is accelerated by individualized computer assisted instruction.

The current Distance Education Library of Courses includes courses in the areas of: English, Math, Science, and Social Studies. Once a student has completed a course, he/she can immediately begin the next one. Some of the courses begin with an initial assessment, allowing students to be exempt from lessons they have already mastered. In other courses, the student can earn exemption by taking the mastery or pre-test prior to beginning each individual lesson. Recommendation for taking a mastery or pre-test may be reviewed during individual student orientations.

Students can access the on-line program through any high speed internet connection (from home or other locations)

- ✓ **Parkway Academy 4 – 12 (lower and upper school)**

Parkway Academy provides an alternative education program of assessment, individualized instruction, counseling and family intervention in an environment of positive behavior supports that encourages appropriate social behavior and decision making and prepares students for successful return into the public schools. Parkway's uniqueness lies in speed of address within the counseling component, bi-monthly individual reviews of each student within their Student Case Study System, and their on-going Positive Behavior Incentive System.

- ✓ **Kingswood Academy 9 - 12**

The goals of this program are to increase the educational, psychological, and social services for 80—100, severely disruptive expelled or about to be expelled students using a non-traditional approach to schooling. The approach used to conduct this program is through dealing with the whole youth, including the family and the community. An approach of this nature will provide youth with

comprehensive integrated educational experiences through non-traditional avenues.

- **Term of placement**

Students must attend an alternative placement program for one complete quarter (marking period) to be considered for return to the comprehensive school.

Students who are expelled must complete their term of expulsion and apply to the Christina School District board of Education for re-admission before returning to the comprehensive school.

For additional information, please contact
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552-2711