

Toronto District School Board

Policy P062

Title: **ALTERNATIVE SCHOOLS**

Adopted: June 27, 2007

Revised:

Reviewed: 2009, March 2012

1.0 OBJECTIVE

To identify the Board's commitment to alternative schools that provide unique pedagogy, forms of governance (see 4.4 below) and staff involvement, and strong parental and/or student involvement.

2.0 RESPONSIBILITY

Director Strategy and Planning

3.0 DEFINITIONS

Alternative school Sites that are unique in pedagogy, forms of governance (see 4.4 below), and staff involvement, and have strong parental and/or student involvement; environments vary and provide an educational experience suited to individual learning styles/preferences and/or needs

New alternative school A stand-alone school with a Ministry-issued Board School Identification Number

4.0 POLICY

- 4.1. The Board is committed to developing and promoting alternative schools as viable pathway and program choices.
- 4.2. The Board recognizes and values the unique contributions of students, parents and staff in the success of alternative schools both at the local school level and at a system level and is committed to fostering this involvement.
- 4.3. Alternative schools, while retaining their unique nature, shall operate in a way that is reasonably consistent with the operational practice of schools within the Board and in compliance with the *Education Act*, regulations, and Ministry of Education guidelines.

- 4.4. Alternative schools shall develop clear mission statements and governance¹ models that support and define the role of student and parental involvement in each school and that define the fundamental philosophical underpinning of the school. Related support for students, parents and staff shall be provided.
- 4.5. Before enrolling, parents and students, shall make a commitment, in writing, to acknowledge and support their chosen alternative school's philosophy, mission, mandate, and unique pedagogy.
- 4.6. A process for philosophical reaffirmation, including a review of the unique needs of students, parents and the community, shall be undertaken by each alternative school no less than once every five years.
- 4.7. A procedure for the evaluation of requests for new alternative schools will be clearly articulated as a Board procedure.

5.0 SPECIFIC DIRECTIVES

The Director of Education is authorized to issue operational procedures to implement this policy.

6.0 REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

Operational Procedure PR584, Alternative Schools

¹ An alternative school's governance model must be developed in recognition of the roles and responsibilities of the Board and its employees as ordered by legislation such as the *Education Act* and its regulations, and by the Board's collective agreements with its employee groups.