

ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION

ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION PATHWAYS OVERVIEW

About Alternative Education

The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (ESE) defines Alternative Education as an initiative within a public school district, charter school, or educational collaborative established to serve at-risk students whose needs are not being met in the traditional school setting. Students who may benefit from an Alternative Education include those who are pregnant/parenting, truant, suspended or expelled, returned dropouts, delinquent, or students who are not meeting local promotional requirements.

Students enrolled in Alternative Education programs or schools must be taught to the same academic standards established for all students in the Commonwealth. At the secondary-school level, Alternative Education programs or schools cannot limit student access to the opportunity to earn a high school diploma. *All Alternative Education programs and schools must maintain high expectations for students and prepare them to be college and career ready.*

Purpose of State Grant

The purpose of the Alternative Education state grant program is to assist school districts with the development and establishment of Alternative Education programs and services to students suspended or expelled from school. The grant priorities include supporting school districts to coordinate efforts to establish inter-district regional Alternative Education collaboratives to provide educational services to suspended or expelled students, and establishing a district based Alternative Education program for students.

The grants encourage voluntary expansion of existing Alternative Education programs in the commonwealth, and are used to provide Alternative Education programs for students who are at risk of educational failure due to truancy, or dropping out of school. Grants are also used to assist in developing programs that provide a range of approaches to address behavior issues, such as behavior specialists, in-school suspension rooms and crisis centers, in addition to out-of-school alternative settings.

Massachusetts State Grant Program for Alternative Education

In the 2008-09 school year, a total of 18 districts were awarded an Alternative Education grant (Section A of line item 7061-9614). Grants are administered on an annual basis.

Grantee Districts		
Barnstable	Hampshire Regional	Quincy
Boston Day and Evening Academy Charter	Lawrence Public	Salem
Fall River	Lynn	Wareham
Fitchburg	Methuen	Westport
Framingham	North Adams	Weymouth
Greenfield	Peabody	Worcester

Resources

The state Alternative Education website at: <http://www.doe.mass.edu/alted>

Listing of Alternative Education schools and programs in the state: <http://profiles.doe.mass.edu/>

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