110. ALTERNATIVE SECONDARY PROGRAMS (SECTION 33-1002; 33-1002C; 33-1002F, IDAHO CODE).

Alternative secondary programs are those that provide special instructional courses and offer special services to eligible at-risk youth to enable them to earn a high school diploma. Some designated differences must be established between the alternative school programs and the regular secondary school programs. Alternative secondary school programs will include course offerings, teacher/pupil ratios and evidence of teaching strategies that are clearly designed to serve at-risk youth as defined in this section. Alternative high school programs conducted during the regular school year will be located on a separate site from the regular high school facility or be scheduled at a time different from the regular school hours.

01. Student Qualifications. An at-risk youth is any secondary student grade seven through twelve (7-12) who meets any three (3) of the following criteria, Subsections 110.01.a. through 110.01.m., or any one (1) of criteria in Subsections 110.01.n. through 110.01.p.

   a. Has repeated at least one (1) grade.
   b. Has absenteeism that is greater than ten percent (10%) during the preceding semester.
   c. Has an overall grade point average that is less than 1.5 (4.0 scale) prior to enrolling in an alternative secondary program.
   d. Has failed one (1) or more academic subjects in the past year.
   e. Is below proficient, based on local criteria and/or standardized tests.
   f. Is two (2) or more semester credits per year behind the rate required to graduate or for grade promotion.
   g. Is a limited English proficient student who has not been in a program more than three (3) years.
   h. Has attended three or more schools within the previous two years not including dual enrollment.
   i. Has documented or pattern of substance abuse behavior.
   j. Is pregnant or a parent.
   k. Is an emancipated youth or unaccompanied youth.
   l. Is a previous dropout.
   m. Has serious personal, emotional, or medical problems issue(s).
   n. Is has a court or agency referral.
   o. Upon recommendation of the school district as determined by locally developed criteria for disruptive student behavior.

02. Instruction. Special instruction courses for at-risk youth enrolled in an alternative secondary program will include:

(4-1-97)
a. Academic skills that include language arts and communication, mathematics, science, and social studies. Core academic content that meets or exceeds minimum state standards.

b. A personal and career counseling component.

c. A physical fitness and personal health component.

d. A state division approved vocational Career and technical education component approved by the state division of career and technical education.

e. A personal finance, parenting, and child care component with parenting skills emphasized.

03. Graduation Credit. Graduation credit may be earned in the following areas: academic subjects, electives, and approved work-based learning experiences. Nonacademic courses, i.e., classroom and office aides do not qualify for credit unless they are approved work-based learning experiences.

04. Special Services. Special services, where appropriate for at-risk youth enrolled in alternative secondary programs, include the following where appropriate:

a. A day care center when enrollees are also parents. This center should be staffed by a qualified child care provider.

b. Direct social services that may include officers of the court, social workers, counselors/psychologists.

c. All services in accordance with the student’s Individualized Education Program.