

## ALTERNATIVE SCHOOLS

The Governing Board recognizes that educational goals may be best achieved through programs that address students' diverse individual learning needs. The Board encourages parents/guardians and staff to develop proposals for innovative schools designed to meet such needs and maximize self-motivation. All proposals should be consistent with current research on effective educational practices.

Alternative schools must teach the Board-adopted core curriculum. With Board approval, they may differ from ongoing programs in other ways that include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. They may emphasize a specific element of the approved curriculum.
2. They may present the approved curriculum in a sequence different from that used in other schools.
3. Their staff may emphasize specific instructional strategies.
4. Subject to Board and administrative approval, the decision-making process for their governance may differ from the processes used in other schools.

Alternative schools may not result in segregated schools, discrimination on the basis of sex, race, or religious preference, inequitable distribution of staff or resources, unequal access to programs, or any other circumstances which adversely affect the learning environment of students not enrolled in the alternative school or class.

The Superintendent or designee may establish an advisory committee of staff and community members who will evaluate proposals for alternative schools. The Board shall approve or disapprove proposals after considering the recommendation of the committee and the Superintendent or designee.

*(cf. 1220 - Citizen Advisory Committees)*

The Superintendent or designee shall annually evaluate alternative schools in accordance with law. Such schools shall be discontinued if they fail to demonstrate positive effects on student achievement over a reasonable period of time, or if interest in the school declines and no longer justifies its staffing requirements.

*Legal Reference:*

EDUCATION CODE

*58500-58512 Alternative Schools*

Policy  
adopted: February 8, 1999

**CAPISTRANO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
San Juan Capistrano, California