

OPPORTUNITY PROGRAMGeneral Information

The Opportunity Program is an alternate educational experience for the under 16 year old student who is either unable or unwilling to cope successfully in the comprehensive school setting. All students in the program are expected to make a serious academic effort and follow behavior and attendance regulations. The goal of the program is to return the successful student back to the comprehensive school setting as soon as practically possible.

Program Administration

The Opportunity Program is district program, supervised by the site administrator, under the direction of the Director of Pupil Personnel Services.

Policies and Administrative Regulations concerning the Opportunity Program may be modified through Board action. A district committee composed of the three junior high school assistant principals in the district and chaired by the Director of Pupil Personnel Services will meet on a regular basis to act on SST and team recommendations for admission to and dismissal from the program. This group will be referred to as the Opportunity Committee.

Structure

The Opportunity Program will be housed in a regular classroom for approximately 240 minutes. The remainder of the workday will be teacher preparation/outreach consultation.

The Opportunity Program classroom should have telephone access.

Class Size

The Opportunity Program is designed for a low student/teacher ratio. Every effort will be made to prevent class size from exceeding .5 of the district wide student/teacher ratio. In the event enrollment exceeds

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this amount, consideration will be given for hiring an instructional assistant to assist the teacher.

Admission/Dismissal

Students are admitted to the program after alternative remedial actions have been taken on the referring school's campus and on a case by case referral basis. Parent conference with the referring school and the Opportunity Program, along with the signing of a contract, as well as a Student Assistance Services referral are mandatory before the enrollment of a student. Students recommended for the program must be referred by the SAS team and approved by the Opportunity committee.

Special Education Referrals

Special Education identified students may be screened for Opportunity programs; however, an Individualized Educational Program (IEP) meeting must be held to confirm that an Opportunity Program is an appropriate placement. This type of placement requires approval from the Director of Pupil Personnel Services.

Behavior Requirements

Exemplary behavior will be required of all program students. The following expectations will be strictly enforced by the teacher and administration to insure the educational success of the program:

1. Students may not be on or near campus before ten (10) minutes prior to school starting time and must leave campus and the surrounding area immediately after the last scheduled class/counseling.
2. No student may interfere with the educational opportunities of any other student. (Classroom behavior expectations are determined by the teacher.)
3. An asserted effort toward academic progress must be maintained.

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4. The teacher will call home or work to inform parent/guardian of a student's absence and/or tardy. Excessive absences will be referred to SARB.
5. All rules governing the expectations of the comprehensive school student will also apply to the Opportunity Program student.

The program's teacher will provide the academic atmosphere necessary for achievement by enforcing the above rules. If a student should break one of the rules, one or more of the following actions will be taken:

1. Suspension
2. Police intervention
3. Dismissal from the program
4. Referral to Outreach
5. Expulsion

Parents will be contacted ASAP if a rule violation occurs.

Curriculum

The academic curriculum will consist of the district's core curriculum, grades 7-9, and other district requirements. Students will be graded by the teacher at the regular grading intervals. Students will receive credits commensurate with the time in the program and the amount of work successfully completed in five unit increments. Each student will have a behavior and an academic contract.

Daily Schedule

The school day will begin soon after the start of the regular program. Students will not be allowed on campus until ten (10) minutes before class starting time. At the close of the last scheduled period, students must immediately leave the area around the campus. The Opportunity Program teacher will be assigned a six period schedule. Periods 1 through 5 will be instruction/consultation and will incorporate a minimum of 240 minutes of classroom instruction and Duty Free Lunch as per contract. Preparation period will be sixth period. In addition, teachers are expected to fulfill the duties of all classroom teachers as listed in Board Policy and Administrative Regulation 4160.25.

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Transportation

The school district will not provide transportation. Parents are required to provide transportation.

Parent Involvement

Parents must have a conference with the Opportunity Program staff at least once a semester to insure parent/school agreement with their student's program. Failure of parents to meet the Opportunity Program staff may result in a student transfer from the program.

Student Status

Intradistrict students of the district's Opportunity Program are to be considered students of the school where the program is housed but may not participate in or attend any school activities. Opportunity Program students are not allowed on campus at any time other than during their regularly scheduled school/counseling hours.

Attendance at Promotion

Students will be considered for attendance at the promotion activity on a case by case basis. Minimum requirements for consideration include:

1. Completion of all academic requirements.
2. Achieving C or better in all subjects.
3. Positive attendance record - no truancies.
4. No inappropriate behavior during 4 weeks prior to promotion event.

The school site administrator will make the final decision regarding student participation in promotion/celebration activities

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