



## **Bainbridge Island School District Procedures for Proposing and Approving Options Program**

### **Guiding Principles for Options Program**

1. Goals of the Options Program are congruent with district vision, mission, goals, and core curriculum.
2. Options Programs are open to all students at the targeted grade level(s) and will be promoted to a diverse demographic of students in terms of ethnicity, race, gender, ability, and socio-economic status.
3. Options Programs are optional alternatives for students, subject to student and parent choice from schools across the district.
4. Options Programs are funded and staffed at comparable levels to other school programs at the same grade level(s).
5. Options Programs are sited on a space available basis
6. Options Programs are evaluated against goals and objective including enrollment targets and student achievement as a basis for continuation.
7. Options Programs fall under the leadership of a district administrator.
8. Options Programs will be developed in cooperation with district and/or community stakeholders (teachers, administrators, Site Base Council, etc.) of the school in which they are sited.
9. Assignment of staff members to an Options Program will be based on the Collective Bargaining Agreement.
10. Each Options Program will encourage innovation and allow for flexibility.

### **Guidelines for Development of Options Program**

1. Parent, community, and/or staff shall develop a written proposal including rationale for the need and the objectives of the program being proposed.
2. If the proposal is approved, the group shall prepare evidence of interest and commitment of the proposed school by enough students and parents to justify the space, time, and financial investments proposed.
3. The responsibility for planning an Options Program will be shared among parents, students, and staff. The administrator is responsible for the administration and supervision of the Options Program as well as the rest of the school. Teaching staff and administrators have ultimate responsibility for educational program decisions. Options Program may establish guidelines for decision-making roles and processes.
4. Other than the necessary start-up costs, the district portions of the Options Program budget shall be commensurate with current per pupil costs in the regular program.

5. All new programs are accepted on annual basis and must be reviewed by the school district annually considering factors such as enrollment, student achievement and program costs.

## **Proposal Process**

1. Applications will be submitted to the Superintendent or designee by December of the school year prior to the new program's desired implementation.

The initial proposal should include:

- Statement of need/purpose/rationale
  - Objectives/goals of the Options Program
  - Names of the interested/involved participants and the grade levels of potential students
  - Any staffing/funding implications
  - General timeline for implementation
2. The Superintendent or designee will work with district staff to analyze the proposal for alignment to guiding principles and systems implications (that includes cost, staffing, space availability and contractual impacts).
  3. Ongoing communication will be provided to the Board of Directors on the proposal and analysis.
  4. The individual and/or group will be asked to prepare evidence of sufficient initial interest and commitment to the proposed program by enough students and parents.
  5. The Board of Directors recommends, rejects, or requests modifications to the proposal.
  6. Final decision on the proposal will be made by the Board of Directors at a public meeting.
  7. The individual and/or group will begin implementation planning with school district staff.

**POLICY 2510: OPTIONS PROGRAM**

Recognizing the diverse nature of the district's student population, the differences in individual student learning styles, and the desire of the community to have access to a range of instructional program options, the board authorizes the administration to develop alternative academic programs within the graduation requirements of the district.

These "options programs" provide students with a range of learning environments that emphasize different delivery models (i.e. multi-age groupings, contract or independent learning experiences, community work experience). Student performance is evaluated in all "options programs" on a competency basis, as measured against the uniform standards and requirements of the school district.

To the extent practical, "options programs" are consistent with and complementary to each other and the school district's traditional classroom programs. Students are encouraged to combine one or more options program with classroom instruction and school-based activities, as desired or necessary, to help participating students learn more successfully.