



Bainbridge Island School District Procedures for Proposing and Approving Options Program

Introduction

The Bainbridge Island School District believes in a continuum of schooling options to meet the needs of the students and parents. These options include neighborhood schools, home schooling partnerships, option schools, online programs, and program innovations. These are optional schooling choices for students created within the auspices of the Bainbridge Island School District. We are committed to the practice of school choice by parents, students and staff and to the evaluation and development of effective schooling options for the improvement of student learning.

Definitions:

Neighborhood School

A school that has an identity, student body, parent community and budget. It has a PTO/Site Council with guiding documents, assigned administrator, shared identity, mission, vision and guiding beliefs amongst staff, parents, and administration. It is publically identified as its own identity. State assessments are given and identified by the school's name. Enrollment and staffing is driven by community need and program capacity and district budget capacity.

Option School

A school that has an identity, student body, parent community and budget. It has a PTO/Site Council with guiding documents, assigned administrator, shared identity, mission, vision and guiding beliefs amongst staff, parents, and administration. Enrollment and staffing is driven by community need and program capacity and district budget capacity. **All new Option Schools must be approved by the BISD Board of Directors.**

Home Partnership

Enrollment is guided by the Alternative Learning Education (ALE) WAC. For students whose instruction is at home, teachers provide curriculum and instructional support for families and work together to plan and evaluate individualized academic plans uses district benchmarks. Student progress is monitored by their teacher/advisor and full time ALE students participate in all local and state testing. Students may also enroll in classes in the school district. Home partnership programs typically offer classes that provide group experiences and support the at-home curriculum.

Online Program

An online school program is defined as a school or program that offers:

- Courses or grade-level coursework that are delivered primarily electronically using the internet or other computer-based methods. The program must have a component that features online lessons and tools for student and data management.
- Courses or grade-level coursework that are taught by a teacher primarily from a remote location using online or other electronic tools. Note that access to the teacher may be synchronous or asynchronous.
- A sequential program – a set of courses or coursework that may be taken in a single school term or throughout the school year in a manner that could provide a full-time basic education program if so desired by the student. Students may enroll in the program as part-time or full-time students.

Program Innovations or Pilot Projects

A program innovation happens within a program or school. The goal is to give avenue for the district to try innovative educational opportunities that will benefit students. These projects are congruent with district vision, mission, goals and core curriculum. Program innovations start on a small controlled scale to allow for its full impact, benefits and weaknesses to be evaluated before implementation on a large scale. Innovations or pilots must be reviewed by the BISD Board of Directors prior to large scale (whole school/whole district) implementation.

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. The goal is to meet demand in a reasonable timeline. Ideally a “Plan B” should be developed for those who do not immediately qualify.
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.

11. Options programs will be created in an open and transparent manner with opportunity for community input.

Option School 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
 - Statement of evidence for the long-term success of the program (why and how this program will be successful)
 - A defined process for determining interest in the program. 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. Communication will include updates to the community via list serve and placement on the district website.
 4. If approved, the district will 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 district will begin implementation planning with school district staff.

On-Going Accountability and Assessment:

To continue from year to year as an option program, the program must demonstrate that students meet or exceed the identified student outcomes.

In addition to measuring student outcomes, Option Programs should perform qualitative evaluations of their programs, teaching methods or unique features. Regular evaluations, including identification of areas of success as well as areas needing improvement, should be documented and shared with the Superintendent or designee.

Option programs not meeting their objective shall be modified; they shall be discontinued if they lack significant overall value or do not have adequate enrollment.

Program Innovations/Pilot Project Process:

1. Idea created at the local level initiated by students, teachers, parents and/or community group.
Initial plan presented to the school principal and includes:
 - a. Cost of pilot/innovation, with a plan for funding sources.
 - b. Quantitative experimental design with the criteria for success.
 - c. Timeline for pilot.
 - d. How pilot/innovation will promote student learning and the district vision, mission, goals and core curriculum.