



ALTERNATIVES IN EDUCATION

Legal References:	<i>Education Act, Ontario Human Rights Code</i>
Related References:	<i>Regulation 308 - Supervised Alternative Learning for Excused Pupils Administrative Procedure 1620 – Alternative Suspension Program Administrative Procedure 2320 – Supervised Alternative Learning</i>
Effective Date:	<i>February 23, 1998</i>
Revisions:	<i>January 22, 2018, January 20, 2020, June 11, 2025</i>
Reviewed:	<i>September 18, 2017</i>

1. Purpose

The Waterloo Region District School Board (WRDSB) encourages and supports the development and implementation of a wide range of programs and structures responsive to the needs of individuals within the Regional Municipality of Waterloo, consistent with available resources.

2. Definitions

- 2.1. Alternative Education includes but is not limited to Choices (For fully expelled secondary students), U-Turn (Temporary intervention for secondary at-risk youth to get back on track with their education), and Elev8 (Grade 8 students who are experiencing significant emotional and social difficulties which affect regular school attendance).

3. Application

- 3.1. The WRDSB recognizes the importance of offering alternatives to existing processes and programs;
- 3.2. The WRDSB acknowledges that the needs of some individuals may be best met through alternatives choices within the system;
- 3.3. The WRDSB has, on many occasions, anticipated local needs and responded to these needs by focusing on learning environments that are inclusive, identity affirming, flexible and individualized to promote the dignity, worth and success of students;
- 3.4. The WRDSB supports both formal and informal review processes to determine the effectiveness of alternative education programs. It responds in a timely manner to community and individual needs and demonstrates responsibility in the allocation of resources to support these programs. When engaging in a review of alternative education programs, it is important that we collaborate and communicate with families / caregivers to ensure we have a variety of perspectives. It is essential to engage with all stakeholders.