

**STUDENT ALTERNATIVE PLACEMENT OF SECONDARY STUDENTS AT  
ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL POLICY – BMS**

MHSD193 has elected to provide alternative instructional courses and services to eligible at-risk youth to enable them to earn a high school diploma via an alternative secondary program through Bennett Mountain High School (BMS). The district's alternative program will utilize course offerings, teacher/student ratios, and teaching strategies that are specially designed to serve the educational needs of at-risk youth.

**PURPOSE**

Bennett Mountain School offers credits that lead to a high school diploma. Bennett Mountain School is not a GED program, remedial program, or special education program. We are committed to helping students earn a high school diploma.

**ENROLLMENT**

Students desiring to enroll in Bennett Mountain School must do so within the first three days of each new block or must wait until the next block begins. Every student must go through the school's induction process prior to enrollment at Bennett Mountain School. The induction process is a meeting between the school's Academic Council and the interested student and their parents/guardians. Enrollment will be determined by the Academic Council.

**ACADEMIC COUNCIL/RTI**

The Council is comprised of staff members of which the principal and counselor will be included. The Bennett Mountain School Academic Council is responsible for overseeing the student induction/enrollment process and meets as needed to review and evaluate interventions/actions that need to be taken in regard to student discipline, conduct, attendance, and credit completion.

**QUALIFICATIONS FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE ALTERNATIVE PROGRAM**

For the purpose of this policy, a student may be considered "at-risk" and qualify for participation in the alternative program if (s)he meets the following criteria:

1. The student is a resident of the district and eligible to attend grades seven (7) through twelve (12).
2. The student meets three (3) of the following criteria:
  - a. Has repeated at least one (1) grade.
  - b. Was absent more than 10% during the preceding semester.
  - c. Has an overall grade point average (GPA) that is less than 1.5 on a 4.0 scale prior to enrolling in the alternative secondary program.
  - d. Has failed one (1) or more academic subjects in the past year.

- e. Is below proficient, based on local criteria or standardized tests, or both.
- f. Is two (2) or more credits per year behind the rate required to graduate or for grade promotion.
- g. Has attended three (3) or more schools within the previous two (2) years, not including dual enrollment.

Or

- 3. The student meets one (1) of the following criteria:
  - a. Has documented or pattern of substance abuse.
  - b. Is pregnant or a parent.
  - c. Is an emancipated youth or unaccompanied youth.
  - d. Is a previous dropout.
  - e. Has a serious personal, emotional, or medical issue(s).
  - f. Has a court or agency referral.
  - g. Is referred to the alternative program by the Superintendent or the MHSD School Board of Trustees;
  - h. Demonstrates behavior that is detrimental to their academic progress.

**PLACEMENT DETERMINATION**

Students may be placed in the BMS alternative school/program by the MHSD Board of Trustees as a result of the findings of the District Review Committee and/or a Response to Intervention (RTI) team if there is availability at BMS.

The evaluation and determination to place the student in the alternative school will be made by the district. In making the placement determination, the district will consider a student’s qualification for participation in the alternative program based on the criteria identified above.

In addition to the student’s behavior, the District Review Committee will consider the student’s academic progress, his/her student learning plan, personal and social development, treatment plans, and other appropriate issues. If the District Review Committee finding determines that placement at BMS or program is appropriate, such placement will be submitted to the MHSD Board of Trustees. The Board of Trustees will hear the student matter, in executive session, during a regular or special board meeting, and will make a determination in the open session of that board meeting.

All students will follow all the requirements, policies, and procedures of the MHSD, including, but not limited to the BMS Student Code of Conduct, Attendance requirements, Dress Code, Policies and Guidelines, and the BMS Student Handbook. All students will cooperate with law enforcement, Health & Welfare officials, and District administrators.



**LEGAL REFERENCE:**

Idaho Code Sections:  
33-1002 – Educational Support Program

33-1002C – Summer School Program Support Units – Alternative Secondary School – Juvenile Detention Facility

33-1002F – Alternative School Program

IDAPA 08.02.03.110 – Alternative Secondary Programs

**ADOPTED: November 18, 2014**

Revised: March 17, 2020