



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION



TO: Superintendents of Schools

FROM: Dr. Dianna R. Wentzell, Commissioner of Education *Dianna R. Wentzell*

DATE: October 28, 2016

SUBJECT: Guidelines for Alternative Education Settings

At the October 5, 2016, State Board of Education meeting, the Board approved the following resolution:

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education, pursuant to section 2 of Public Act 15-133, *An Act Concerning Alternative Education*, establishes the “Guidelines for Alternative Education Settings,” and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

In July 2014, the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) established an Alternative Schools Committee to develop guidelines and best practices to support the operation of alternative school programs offered by local and regional boards of education. The committee met over the course of a year in developing draft guidelines.

Subsequently, Public Act 15-133, *An Act Concerning Alternative Education*, required the CSDE to develop guidelines for the provision of alternative education. The statute requires that local or regional boards of education may provide alternative education to students in accordance with these guidelines and that such guidelines shall include:

- description of the purpose and expectations of alternative education;
- criteria for who is eligible to receive alternative education; and
- criteria for how and when a student may enter or exit alternative education.

The Alternative Schools Committee worked collaboratively to develop the guidelines to meet the requirements of the statute. These guidelines are designed to support the operation of alternative education settings (schools or programs) offered by local and regional boards of education. The purpose of the guidelines is to ensure improved program designs and greater outcomes for students in alternative education settings. Additionally, the guidelines serve to advance development of a culture of high expectations for all students in accordance with the State Board of Education Five-Year Comprehensive Plan 2016-21, *Ensuring Equity and Excellence for All Connecticut Students*. The approved Guidelines for Alternative Education Settings can be accessed at <http://www.ct.gov/sde/alternativeeducation>.

I am confident that you will find the guidelines to be a helpful resource tool for your ongoing planning and development of high-quality alternative settings. The CSDE will keep you informed of professional learning opportunities regarding effective implementation. For more information please contact Scott Newgass, Education Consultant, at scott.newgass@ct.gov or (860) 807-2044 or Mark Linabury, Bureau Chief, at mark.linabury@ct.gov or (860) 713-6556.

DRW:ml