



## Alternative Program Proposals

Individuals or groups submitting an Alternative Program Proposal to The Calgary Board of Education are asked to thoroughly review the entire content of this document.

### Definition of Alternative Programs

Section 11 of the Alberta Education Act defines alternative programs as, “an education program that (a) emphasizes a particular language, culture, religion or subject matter, or b) uses a particular teaching philosophy.”

### Student Learning in The Calgary Board of Education

The core work of The Calgary Board of Education (CBE) is student learning. Our work is guided by Results policies developed by the CBE Board of Trustees. Results policies are the Board of Trustees statements of outcomes for each student. Those outcomes are in: academic success, citizenship, personal development, and character. The CBE Mission supports the achievement of these Results.

Education programming and the achievement of the Results are accomplished through the personalization of student learning. We are committed to student learning that includes choices developed to respond to specific student interests and talents, options in neighbourhood schools and in specialized settings, and technological advances to support anytime, anywhere access designed for our learners.

The CBE initiates new alternative programs based on identified student interest and need. We also consider proposals for alternative programs from outside the organization – from individuals and groups who have identified an area of interest and would like to collaborate with us.

Alternative Program Proposals will be respectfully and thoughtfully screened based on the values and priorities of the CBE and legislative regulations. All alternative programs offered by the CBE to our students are the sole property of The Calgary Board of Education.

The information in this package is designed to support Alternative Program Proposal submission so that we may work together to create a culture of excellence for students.

### Alternative Program References

Section 11 of the Alberta *Education Act* defines an alternative program as “an education program that (a) emphasizes a particular language, culture, religion or subject-matter, or b) uses a particular teaching philosophy, but that is not a special education program, a program referred to in section 11 or a program of religious education offered by a separate school board.” Visit the [Education Act](#) to learn more.

All instructional programs offered by schools in Alberta must align with Alberta Education's [Programs of Study](#).

The CBE is bound by legislative regulations, Alberta Education requirements and the collective agreements in place with our employee unions and associations.

The Results policies of the Board of Trustees are the stated learning outcomes for Calgary Board of Education students. The Results policies are:

- Results 1: Mission
- Results 2: Academic Success
- Results 3: Citizenship
- Results 4: Personal Development
- Results 5: Character

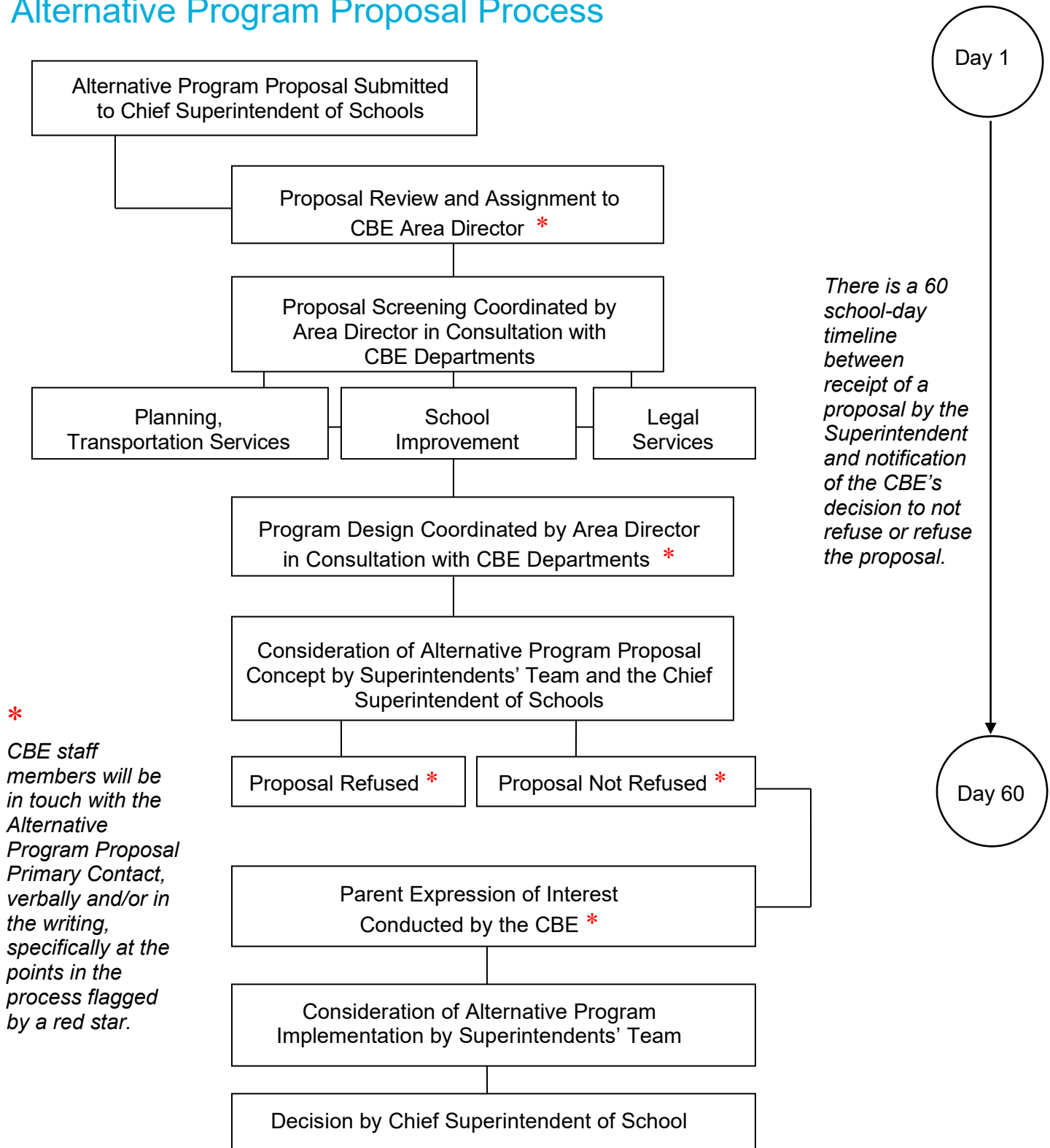
Visit the [Results policies](#) for more details.

The Chief Superintendent of the CBE is required to operate within Operational Expectations developed by the Board of Trustees. These policies define the nonnegotiable expectations and the clear boundaries within which the Chief Superintendent and CBE employees must operate.

The Board of Trustees has developed Operational Expectations 3: Instructional Program that states, the Chief Superintendent will “ensure that no program emphasizes a particular religion, notwithstanding the *Education Act* definition of alternative programs.” For more information refer to [Operational Expectations OE-3](#).

Expressions of Interest are meetings or open houses organized by CBE Planning and Transportation to gather input from the public regarding interest in a proposed alternative program. Visit [Managing Space for Students](#) and [Community Engagement](#) for more information.

## Alternative Program Proposal Process



## Alternative Program Checklist

This checklist is designed to help determine if the proposed program qualifies as an Alternative Program and as such may be considered by the CBE.

Does the proposed program have the following elements?

- ✓ The program is based on a particular language, culture, subject matter or teaching philosophy.
- ✓ The program is not a Francophone program.
- ✓ The program is not a special needs program.
- ✓ The program is not a program of religious education.
- ✓ The program is a consistent set of unique features intended to be long-term and sustainable.
- ✓ The program involves the entire elementary, middle/junior high or senior high grades or a combination of these grades.

If the answer is yes to ALL the above, then the proposed program qualifies as an alternative program and may be submitted to the CBE for consideration.

## Writing an Alternative Program Proposal

Write your own proposal following the requirements below or use our Alternative Program Proposal Form (in Microsoft Word). A form can be found on our website at [www.cbe.ab.ca](http://www.cbe.ab.ca).

## Required Content of Proposal to The Calgary Board of Education

CBE employees will contact the individual named as the Primary Contact for clarification and/or additional information during the proposal process and to update on the status of the proposal.

Alternative Program Proposals must contain the following information.

1. Name of Group, if applicable
2. Name of Primary Contact
3. Primary Contact Mailing Address & Contact Numbers
  - Mailing address including postal code
  - Telephone Numbers: Business, Cell or Home
  - Fax Number (if applicable)
  - Email Address
4. Proposed Name of the Alternative Program
5. Proposed Opening Date for the Alternative Program

## 6. Proposed Grade Levels for the Alternative Program

Place either a Yes (Y) or a No (N) in the box below each grade level, from Kindergarten (K) to Grade 12. Yes indicates the grades included in this proposed alternative program and shows the potential educational experience for a student.

| Grade  | K | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 |
|--------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|
| Y or N |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |

7. Describe in detail the essential characteristics of the proposed alternative program depending on its base of language, culture, subject matter or teaching philosophy.
8. Explain how the proposed alternative program is significantly different from programs offered by the CBE as related to language, culture, subject-matter or teaching philosophy.
9. Describe the students for whom the alternative program is intended.
10. Indicate how educational research supports the proposed alternative program, with an emphasis on Canadian and local contexts, where applicable. Cite scholarly research published in peer reviewed journals.
11. Describe the unique student learning outcomes resulting from the proposed alternative program.

At the end, please sign and date your proposal.

## Protection of Privacy

Personal information is collected under the authority of Alberta's *Protection of Privacy Act* (POPA). The information in this application will be used to determine an outcome to the proposal and may be attached to reports made public. The personal information contained in this application will be treated in accordance with the privacy protection provisions of POPA. If you have questions about the collection, contact the Office of the Chief Superintendent, Calgary Board of Education 1221 – 8 Street SW Calgary AB T2R 0L9, 403-817-7900 or [chiefsuperintendent@cbe.ab.ca](mailto:chiefsuperintendent@cbe.ab.ca)

## Submitting an Alternative Program Proposal

Alternative Program Proposals are submitted to the Chief Superintendent of Schools, Calgary Board of Education.

By mail to

Chief Superintendent of Schools  
The Calgary Board of Education  
2nd Floor, Education Centre  
1221 – 8 Street S.W.  
Calgary, Alberta T2R 0L4

By email to

[chiefsuperintendent@cbe.ab.ca](mailto:chiefsuperintendent@cbe.ab.ca)

Please do **not fax** your submission.

## CBE Screening of an Alternative Program Proposal

When your Alternative Program Proposal is received by the Chief Superintendent, staff members will begin looking for information that helps determine if the proposed alternative program:

- is consistent with the *Education Act* and Operational Expectations 3: Instructional Program,
- is not a duplication of an existing program offered by the CBE,
- is consistent with sound educational theory and practice, and
- is sustainable over the long term.

There is a 60 school-day timeline between receipt of a proposal by the Superintendent and notification of the CBE's decision to not refuse or refuse the proposal.

CBE staff members will be in touch with the Alternative Program Proposal Primary Contact, verbally and/or in the writing, as needed, specifically at the points in the process flagged by a red star. Refer to the process on page 3.