

CHAPTER 254

AN ACT concerning the establishment of recovery high school alternative education programs and supplementing Title 18A of the New Jersey Statutes.

BE IT ENACTED *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:*

C.18A:35-29 Short title.

1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the “Recovery High School Alternative Education Act.”

C.18A:35-30 Definitions relative to alternative education programs.

2. As used in this act:

“Alternative education program” means a comprehensive educational program designed to address the individual learning, behavior, and health needs of students who are not succeeding in a general education program or who have been mandated for removal from general education. The alternative education program shall provide a variety of approaches to meet State-adopted standards, including non-traditional programs, services, and methodologies to ensure curriculum and instruction are delivered in a way that enables students to demonstrate the knowledge and skills specified for all students.

“Recovery high school alternative education program” means an alternative education program that serves students diagnosed with substance use disorder or dependency as defined by the most recent Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, and that provides a comprehensive four-year high school education in an alternative public school setting and a structured plan of recovery that is aligned with the national framework of evidence-based practices for recovery high schools.

C.18A:35-31 Operation of alternative education program permitted.

3. Any board of education may operate an alternative education program including, but not limited to, a recovery high school alternative education program, upon approval by the board of education. The Commissioner of Education shall approve any alternative education program within a State agency, public college operated program, or department-approved school.

C.18A:35-32 Agreement for provision of services to out-of-district student.

4. A sending district may enter into an agreement with a school district which has established a recovery high school alternative education program for the provision of services to a student who is currently enrolled in the sending district. If the student is admitted to the recovery high school alternative education program, the sending district shall pay tuition to that district calculated in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.18A:38-19.

C.18A:35-33 Regulations.

5. The State Board of Education may adopt regulations pursuant to the “Administrative Procedure Act,” P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), to effectuate the purposes of this act.

6. This act shall take effect immediately.

Approved January 19, 2016.