



OTTAWA-CARLETON  
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

# Alternative Elementary Programs

The Ottawa-Carleton District School Board supports a range of programs to challenge all students to achieve their personal best. One such program is the Alternative Elementary Program alongside the English/Core French and French Immersion programs. With strong community support and parent involvement, the Alternative Elementary Program is based on a concept of student-centered learning and this philosophy translates into all aspects of a student's experience at school. The program provides students opportunities to meet Ministry expectations with flexibility to allow greater concentration in areas of their own interest and aptitudes.

## The Alternative Philosophy

While the following characteristics are found in many classrooms, they form the foundation of the alternative education philosophy:

- Cooperation and teamwork are emphasized instead of competition in all aspects of the school. The core belief is that children who are motivated from within, instead of by rewards, will become lifelong learners, eager to take on challenges.
- A commitment to innovative approaches to teaching and learning through a shared responsibility among staff, students, and parents.
- A balance between student-directed and teacher-directed learning: the teacher acts as a facilitator/mentor/guide of the child's learning; enhances self-concept, enthusiasm for learning, and personal responsibility.



- Multi-aged groupings: interaction among children of different ages and at different stages of development provides an environment wherein students learn from each other as well as from the teacher.
- Integrated curriculum: this provides a natural progression from whole to parts and stresses the interrelation of all learning and subjects.

- A family-centered school environment wherein parental involvement is a partnership between the home and school fostering self-respect, respect for the ideas and the opinions of others, and an appreciation for people's differences.
- Assessment and evaluation is on-going using multiple strategies which include student self-evaluations. The primary focus of this process is personal growth, as well as being used as a tool for program planning and assessment.

## Alternative Elementary Program Structure

An Alternative Elementary Program is structured to ensure that each child has the opportunity to complete the core curriculum specified by the Board and the

Ministry of Education. Parents and teachers help students develop their own interests.

This approach to learning helps children develop positive study habits and attitudes that will carry them through the rest of their school career, and the rest of their lives.

Published by Curriculum Services and Communications and Information Services — Revised September 2006

133 Greenbank Road • Ottawa, ON K2H 6L3 • 613-721-1820 • FAX 613-820-6968

Website: [www.ocdsb.ca](http://www.ocdsb.ca) • Document Fax Service 613-596-8204 • 24-Hour Automated Information Line 613-596-8222

## ALTERNATIVE ELEMENTARY PROGRAMS

### Who Can Attend an Alternative Elementary Program?

An Alternative Elementary Program is open to everyone — programs are offered in different parts of the city — and operates within Board policies and provincial statutes.



### Establishing an Alternative Elementary Program

There are procedures to guide the establishment of additional program locations. Through the Alternative Schools Advisory Committee, parents, staff, and trustees work toward this goal. In practice, this means that logistical support and advice will be made available to parents that wish to establish a new Alternative Elementary Program.

To launch a new Alternative Elementary Program, the group must apply to the Board. The Alternative Schools Advisory Committee may be approached for assistance.

Any application to establish a new program should describe:

- the purposes, methodology, and philosophical basis for the program
- projected enrolment
- requirements for facilities and materials and the financial commitments involved
- requirements for teaching and support staff and the financial commitments involved
- an indication of community support

The standards for starting a new program may seem high, but parents and staff at the District's present alternative elementary locations are there to help.

### Further Information

Families are encouraged to contact the principal or the school council at any current Alternative Elementary Program for more information.

### Alternative Elementary Locations

#### Churchill Alternative School

345 Ravenhill Avenue, Ottawa 613-722-4474

#### Fisher Park Public School/ Summit Alternative School

250 Holland Avenue, Ottawa 613-729-5054

#### Grant Alternative School

2720 Richmond Road, Ottawa 613-596-0188

#### Lady Evelyn Alternative School

63 Evelyn Avenue, Ottawa 613-239-2404

#### Manor Park Public School

100 Braemar Street, Ottawa 613-746-8131

#### Riverview Alternative School

260 Knox Crescent, Ottawa 613-733-6898

