

INSTRUCTION

Policy 2700-P2

Alternative School

The Board of Trustees of the McCall-Donnelly School District 421 establishes as its goal the completion of a quality secondary education for all resident students. The Board recognizes that some students may not reach that goal and has established an alternative high school program for students in grades 9-12.

The alternative education program is viewed as a last opportunity for eligible students. Attending the alternative school is a privilege, not a right.

The alternative school shall be known as Heartland High School. The mission statement of Heartland High School is: "To empower students with the skills, knowledge, and attitudes necessary to earn a high school diploma and become productive members of society."

Authority:

Unless otherwise stipulated in this policy or the Heartland High School Student Handbook, the Policies of the McCall-Donnelly School District shall be in effect for Heartland High School.

Eligibility for enrollment:

- a) Age 14 on or before September 1st of the current school year.
- b) Residency: McCall-Donnelly School District, except any student who resides outside the district may apply to attend HHS (see Policy 3010).
- c) At risk status: In order to become enrolled at Heartland High School, students shall complete an application and meet the criteria by IDAPA 08.02.03.110.

At-Risk Student Qualification Criteria Definition:

An at-risk youth is any secondary student, grades 9-12, who meets any three (3) of the following criteria in Column A, or any one (1) item in Column B.

Column A	Column B
Has repeated at least one grade.	Has a documented or pattern of substance abuse.
Has absenteeism that is greater than 10% during the preceding semester.	Is pregnant or a parent.
Has an overall grade point average that is less than 1.5 (4.0 scale) prior to enrolling in an alternative secondary program.	Is an emancipated or unaccompanied youth.

Has failed one or more academic subjects in the past year.	Is a previous dropout.
Is below proficient, based on local criteria and/or state standardized tests.	Has serious personal, emotional, or medical issue(s).
Is two or more credits per year behind the rate required to graduate or for grade promotion.	Has a court or agency referral.
Has attended three (3) or more schools within the previous two (2) years, not including dual enrollment.	Demonstrates behavior that is detrimental to their academic progress.

Selection process:

1. The selection committee, which is comprised of the principal and teaching staff at Heartland High School will review the application packet along with relevant student behavior and academic records.
2. If the applicant qualifies for enrollment, the selection committee will conduct an interview with the applicant and parent/guardian if the student is under 18 years-of-age.
3. If parent/guardian is not actively involved in the student's education, a designated sponsor must be provided to the school.
4. If selected to attend Heartland High School, the student and parent/guardian or designated contact shall attend a secondary interview, clarifying expectations and signing a contractual agreement.
5. Questions regarding selection decisions shall be directed to the principal of Heartland High School.

Transfers:

Students may not transfer directly from McCall-Donnelly High School or any other high school into Heartland High School until they have successfully completed the eligibility and selection process.

Capacity:

Heartland Alternative High School will maintain a student to teacher ratio of 14:1 18:1.

Appeals:

Any student denied enrollment may appeal to the district superintendent.

Academic curriculum:

Academic curriculum will generally be organized in approximately seventy (70) hour

blocks of in-school instruction dealing with one specific course at a time. The time blocks will contain alternative materials and curriculum, and curricula aligned with Idaho State Department of Education standards, distinct from those offered by conventional high schools. Heartland High School will utilize the adopted McCall-Donnelly School District Curriculum.

Academic curriculum may also be delivered by other than teacher format, and/or online through other high school credit gathering agencies. The instructional staff shall carefully monitor course content to assure that the curriculum objectives for each subject are met and mastered by students before credit is granted.

Attendance:

Please refer to the Heartland High School Handbook for attendance requirements.

Graduation Requirements:

Students will graduate from Heartland High School by completing the required credits documented by the Idaho State Department of Education.

Diplomas:

The Heartland High School diplomas will be granted at the Heartland High School graduation ceremony and indicate that the student has completed the State of Idaho graduation requirements.

[Legal References:](#)
[IDAPA 08.02.03.105](#)

Policy History:

Adopted: May 2012

Revised: March 2024