

OPPORTUNITY SCHOOL PROGRAM

Scope Of Program

The program is designed to impact on selected students in grades 7, 8, and 9 (under the age of 16).

Students assigned to this program will be drawn from one or more of the following categories:

1. pupils who are, or in danger of becoming, habitually truant from instruction, or,
2. who are, or are in danger of becoming, irregular in attendance, or,
3. who are, or are in danger of becoming, insubordinate or disorderly during their attendance

Students assigned to the Opportunity Class should show some promise of eventually being restored to regular classes.

Goal

The goal of the Opportunity Class is to assist the pupil to improve upon a specific disability and to return as soon as practicable to the regular school program.

Objectives

1. To implement a personalized instructional program for the selected population of pupils that:
 - a. Result in improved attendance:
 - 1) Pupils who have been characterized as attendance problems will improve their attendance by at least fifty percent based upon a comparison of each individual's attendance records prior to and after enrollment in the class.
 - b. Result in improved behavior:
 - 1) Pupils who have been characterized as behavior problems will have a reduction in conduct referrals of at least seventy-five percent based upon a comparison of each individual's conduct records prior to and after enrollment in the class.
 - 2) Pupils will show positive improvement in their behavioral attitudes toward school, themselves, and their peers as measured by an evaluation of each pupil's progress records.

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- c. Increase the pupil's academic progress in basic skills subjects (reading, mathematics, and writing):
 - 1) Pupils will improve their reading and math test scores at least one month for each month the pupils are enrolled in the Opportunity Class as measured by pre and post testing of each pupil.
 - 2) Pupils will receive passing grades each quarter in Opportunity Class subjects and any regular class subjects taken while enrolled in the Opportunity Class.
 - 3) Ninety-five percent (95%) of the pupils will pass the appropriate proficiency tests in reading, math and writing either prior to or while enrolled in the Opportunity Class program.

Since pupils enrolled in the class will not have identical problems, objectives for each pupil will be made part of the teacher's contract at the time of entry into the program.

2. To prepare teachers to understand, accept, and operate a personalized program.
 - a. Contractual arrangements will be established so that the student and teacher agree upon an appropriate set of learning activities to be completed.
 - b. Motivation will be encouraged through a variety of methods and techniques. Instructional materials and activities will be appropriate to the student's abilities, response level and interests.

Program

1. The Opportunity Class will operate on a 240-minute minimum day.
2. Pupils enrolled in Opportunity Class may receive credit for up to five subjects for each semester enrolled (25 semester credits). Specific subject requirements may be waived while the pupil is enrolled in the class. Students will still be required to meet District promotion or graduation requirements.
3. Objectives and subject taken by each pupil in the class will be set by contractual arrangement between the pupil, parents and teachers.
4. Pupils in the Opportunity Class may be enrolled in classes outside the Opportunity Class with the approval of the regular teacher, the Opportunity Class teacher and the site administrator.
5. Staff for each class will usually consist of one teacher; student/teacher ratio will be 20:1.
6. In addition to instructional duties, the teacher will be responsible for advising and guiding the pupil and parent(s)/guardian(s) on discipline and attendance.
7. Regular, ongoing progress reports may also be initiated for individual students based on the needs and requests for each student

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Enrollment Criteria And Procedures

1. Pupil Eligibility

- a. A pupil must be currently enrolled in the Salinas Union High School District.
- b. Eligible pupils will be those who have already received extensive counseling and remediation regarding attendance, truancy, and/or disorderly behavior.
- c. A pupil will be at Steps 4-5 of the District's Attendance Policy or have been suspended more than 15 days in one school year (documented discipline referrals).
- d. No pupil will be placed in Opportunity Class who has met all the requirements for placement in other specific programs (e.g., Special Education).
- e. No pupil will be eligible to be placed in the Opportunity Class or shall have continued enrollment in that program who has been enrolled in the class two semesters or the major portion thereof. Pupil must be enrolled for a minimum of one semester, or fifteen weeks of a semester. Individual exceptions may be made at the discretion of the principal.

2. Admission and Dismissal Procedures

- a. Pupils shall be assigned and dismissed from the Opportunity Class by an Admission and Dismissal Committee. The committee shall consist of the following persons:
 - 1) Administrator from the school where the class is located, who shall be the committee chairperson;
 - 2) The teacher of the Opportunity Class;
 - 3) A representative of the school's Pupil Personnel Services;
 - 4) Pupil and parent or guardian of the pupil at the option of the parent or guardian;
 - 5) Other certificated personnel (ex officio) approved in advance by the committee chairperson.
- b. No pupil shall be assigned to Opportunity Class until both the pupil and the pupil's parent or guardian have been notified in writing of the intended assignment. The notice shall be in the parent or guardian's primary language (insofar as is practicable) and shall request the parent or guardian to respond within 10 days. Absent a response, the school shall make a reasonable effort to contact the parent or guardian.
- c. The following information shall be available at the committee meeting:
 - 1) Pupil's discipline record;
 - 2) Pupil's attendance history record;
 - 3) Pupil's academic record;
 - 4) Report of the pupil's current status from all teachers/classes;

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- 5) Results of the most recent standardized grade placement test results;
 - 6) Pupil's status on District proficiency tests;
 - 7) Other information deemed pertinent.
- d. Upon admission, the progress, including the objectives, shall be discussed in detail. Pupil, parent or guardian, and teacher will prepare and sign the pupil performance contract.
 - e. Students will be expected to be in daily attendance, complete class assignments, be punctual, follow instructions and class rules. The student also is expected to follow any other requirements agreed upon at the time of placement into the program.
 - f. Parents will agree to be available by telephone during class times. (In the event a parent is not personally available by telephone, an adult will be authorized in writing to represent the parent with the school.) Parents agree to support the Opportunity Program and fulfill other requirements as agreed at the time of the placement of the student.
 - g. Students should not be placed in the program after the first week in May. (One of the major objectives of the Opportunity Class is rehabilitation. Late placement offers little time to affect a change in behavior. Students should be reviewed early enough in the school year to provide for placement before the cut-off dates.)
 - h. Review Procedures
 - 1) The teacher shall conduct a review of a student's progress at least once per semester each year to determine whether student is prepared and could benefit by return to the regular program.
 - 2) The review will be conducted with the pupil and the parent/guardian of the pupil at the option of the parent/guardian. Others may be requested to attend the review conference.
 - 3) Review will document the evaluation of academic, attitude and behavior progress made since enrollment or the last review.
 - 4) Social adjustment progress will also be documented and discussed at the review conference.
 - 5) A recommendation will be made regarding continuation in the program, dismissal, or transfer to another program.
3. Dismissal
- a. The Opportunity Class teacher will review each student's progress at least two times each school year to determine whether the pupil would benefit by returning to regular classes. Written records of the review and its results or recommendations will be maintained.
 - b. If recommended by the Opportunity Class teacher in writing, the committee must be called to consider the recommendations within 10 school days.

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- c. Prior to dismissal from the Opportunity Class, pupils may be placed in regular classes on a trial basis with the approval of the receiving regular class teacher, the Opportunity Class teacher, and the site administrator.

Discipline/Attendance

- 1. Students in the Opportunity Class will adhere to all regular District attendance and discipline policies and procedures.
- 2. The Opportunity Class teacher will be responsible for all discipline and attendance and will be required to maintain and document frequent and regular contact with parent/guardian.
- 3. The Opportunity Class discipline procedures will provide:
 - a. Fair and impartial treatment of all students;
 - b. Consistency in the treatment of discipline cases;
 - c. Classroom standards necessary for an environment conducive to the successful achievement of academic goals;
 - d. That numerous remedial measures be taken with full documentation for all disciplinary action.
 - e. A chance for the successful transition of the Opportunity Class student into a regular class program.

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