



JUNE 2003 AGENDA

SUBJECT	X	ACTION
Entry requirements for alternative schools participating in the Alternative Schools Accountability Model.		INFORMATION
		PUBLIC HEARING

Recommendation:

Approve the proposal for refining the criteria that alternative schools must meet in order to participate in the Alternative Schools Accountability Model.

Summary of Previous State Board of Education Discussion and Action

Members of the State Board of Education (SBE) have requested that the criteria for alternative schools participating in the Alternative Schools Accountability Model (ASAM) be made more rigorous. The Superintendent’s Advisory Committee for the Public Schools Accountability Act presented a proposal for revising ASAM entry requirements for alternative schools as information to the SBE in May 2003. Members of the SBE requested that the proposal be further refined and that a recertification process be developed for schools in this category.

Summary of Key Issue(s)

Several types of alternative schools that are defined in law participate in the ASAM. These include Community Day Schools, Continuation Schools, Opportunity Schools, Juvenile Court Schools, County Community Schools, and California Youth Authority Schools. Approximately 162 “other alternative schools,” including 33 charter schools, also participate in ASAM. Questions have been raised about whether the characteristics of the populations served by “other alternative schools” in the ASAM, have been sufficiently well-defined to distinguish those schools from other schools that serve high-risk, low-performing populations.

The refined proposal presented for action will:

- Redefine the characteristics of the populations served by “other alternative schools.”
- Raise the percentage requirement for students with those characteristics.
- Require a new registration process for these schools that will include certification by the county superintendent as well as the principal, superintendent, and board president.

Fiscal Analysis (as appropriate)

None

Attachment(s)

Additional materials will be provided in the supplemental agenda.