

Policy – 2211

Instruction

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: “Students at Heartland High School will learn the skills, acquire the knowledge and develop the attitudes necessary to reach full potential as life-long learners within 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 3341).
- 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 List

An at-risk youth is any secondary student, grades 7-12, who meets any 3 of the following criteria in Column A, or any 1 criteria in Column B. Please review the below chart to make sure your school meets the below criteria. Students who do not meet the criteria should not be included in the ISEE reporting for the summer school.

Column A	Column B
Has repeated at least one grade.	Has substance abuse behavior.
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 youth.
Has failed one or more academic subjects.	Is a previous dropout.
Is two or more semester credits per year behind the rate required to graduate.	Has serious personal, emotional, or medical problems.
Is a limited English proficient student who has not been in a program more than 3 years.	Is a court or agency referral.
	Upon recommendation of the school district as determined by locally developed criteria for disruptive student behavior.

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.

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 material substantially equal to that provided by a conventional high school. Heartland High School will utilize the adopted McCall-Donnelly School District Curriculum.

Academic curriculum may also be delivered by other than teacher format, i.e. Idaho Education Network, video tape programs and assignments through the PLATO Network or 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:

Students shall follow HHS Attendance Policy as specified in the Heartland High School Student Handbook.

Graduation Requirements:

Students may choose between two sets of Graduation requirements: those established by the State Board of Education or the increased requirements of the McCall-Donnelly School District.

Diplomas:

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

Or

Heartland High School Students completing the McCall-Donnelly School District graduation requirements will receive a diploma from Heartland High School. The diploma will indicate that the student has passed the State of Idaho and the McCall-Donnelly School District graduation requirements. The student will be eligible to participate in the Heartland High School graduation ceremony and the McCall-Donnelly High School graduation ceremony.

Policy History

Adopted: May 2012

Amended: July 2016