

Alternative Education FAQs

This document was created to help provide Alternative Education guidance during the coronavirus/COVID-19 global pandemic. We acknowledge that this situation has created uncertainties and challenges. We hope the following information will help provide you support in meeting these challenges as well as answering some of your questions. Please remember to refer to other vital information provided by the Oklahoma State Department of Education (OSDE) on [Distance Learning](#) as well as the [FAQs for Oklahoma public schools](#).

Will our Alternative Education program have to comply with the 16 criteria during this time of distance learning?

Programs should make an effort to continue implementation of the [16 criteria](#) of an alternative education program as they are critical in providing at risk students with the supports needed to stay in school. It is understandable, however, that elements of the 16 criteria will not look the same during this time frame. These are extenuating circumstances in which you may have to find reassurance in the fact that you covered the 16 criteria during the first 3 quarters of the school year and you will provide continued efforts as best you can.

In what ways can I provide life skills lessons for my students?

Many of the online platforms programs provide actual Life Skills courses in which students can participate. If you are not using an online platform or your platform does not provide a Life Skills course, [Overcoming Obstacles](#) is an excellent resource. This link leads you to a resource handbook on Life Skills Lessons for Remote Learning. Another resource for finance is <http://econisok.org>. This site is from the Oklahoma Council on Economic Education. Their site provides finance lessons including buying a car and budgeting.

In what ways can I provide art lessons and activities for my students?

Get creative during this time and don't panic! Have your students visit a virtual museum and participate in a virtual scavenger hunt. Have them describe their online virtual museum experience and submit it as a field trip. Have students use their cell phone cameras to do a photography assignment. Have them snap a photo of their composition and email it to you. There are also different YouTube channels where students learn many different drawing techniques.

In what ways can I provide counseling services for my students?

Contact your local counseling partners and see how you might continue service while students are at home. Many of these services provide telemedicine sessions. Your high school counselor may also be able to provide supports to your students during this time. This is OSDE's link to Counseling resources <https://sde.ok.gov/counseling>

My program was scheduled for our site visit before the end of this school year. How will we be meeting this mandate?

Any outstanding alternative education site visits which have not been conducted as of March 13, 2020 will not be completed during this school year. We appreciate all of the hard work you have done as it pertains to your alternative education audit for this year. Please know that our Alternative Education team will be available for any questions and or concerns you may have during this unprecedented time. We will send out dates for FY21 alternative education site visit schedules in the Fall. Until then, the priority should be placed on supporting your students as well as developing and implementing your distance learning plan.

Will there be any exemption or exception made for Alternative Education students who, as of March 13th, might not have started coursework needed for graduation this Spring?

While the State Board of Education does not have the authority to waive any statutory graduation credits, the State Board of Education encourages districts to revise the means of delivering mandatory courses in a manner benefiting students given the unprecedented circumstances. The State Board's recent action was to allow districts to continue education, including grading, in a way that does not negatively impact student outcomes. Ultimately however, grading decisions lie with local districts.