GUIDELINES FOR ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION STUDENTS

Alaska Statute, AS 14.30.365, is called the ”Home School Law”. This law permits students who are enrolled in alternative education programs and accredited home schools as defined under AS 14.30.365, and who are otherwise eligible to participate in high school interscholastic activities, to request a “school of eligibility” within a public school district **or at a religious or private school**. The following suggestions and guidelines have been developed to aid school administrators in fully implementing the “letter and the spirit” of the law. For further clarification contact ASAA or your district level administration.

It is important to fully understand the definitions of alternative education program and accredited under the statute so that there is no confusion.

Alternative Education Program: The Association adopts the statutory definition, in AS 14.30.365 (c)(1), of "alternative education program" as a public secondary school that provides a nontraditional education program, including the Alaska Military Youth Academy; a public vocational, remedial or theme-based program; a home school program that is accredited, as defined In this section, a charter school authorized under AS 14.03.250-14.03.290; and a statewide correspondence school that enrolls students that reside outside of the district in which the student resides and provides less than 3 hours a week of scheduled face-to-face student interactions in the same location with a teacher who is certified under AS 14.20.020.

Accredited: For purposes of determining whether a home school program is "accredited" such as to qualify as an alternative education program herein, the State Department of Education and Early Development (DEED) has identified Cognia as the sole recognized body to accredit home school programs that have standards similar to Alaska’s standards; the Association shall regard as "accredited" those home school programs that have been accredited by Cognia.

School of Eligibility: shall be the public school that, (1) based on the residence of the parent or legal guardian, the student would be eligible to attend were the student not enrolled in an alternative education program; or (2) at which the student requests to participate, if (A) the student shows good cause, as determined by the governing body of the Public School the student would be eligible to attend were the student not enrolled in an alternative education program and (B) the governing body of the school in which the student seeks to participate in interscholastic activities approves. Or, a religious or other private school regulated under this chapter that, (1) the student would be eligible to attend were the student not enrolled in an alternative education program; and (2) at which the student requests to participate, if the administrator of the school approves.

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ASAA Eligibility Requirements for Alternative Education Students

Alternative education program students must meet all ASAA and member school district eligibility requirements with the exception of regular attendance at the "school of eligibility." Schools which permit ineligible students to participate will be subject to penalty under ASAA Bylaws.

Students must physically reside within the attendance area of the school, or if not, have received approval of the school's governing body to establish the school as the "school of eligibility."

Students must be enrolled in grades 9-12 in an "alternative education program" as defined in AS 14.30.365.

Students must be enrolled in at least the minimum number of classes according to ASAA and school district enrollment requirements.

Students must meet or exceed ASAA's Semester Credit Rule for the immediate preceding semester, including the GPA requirement.

Students must not have transferred directly from a member school to start the school year (transfers may require a calendar year period of ineligibility for varsity level competition).

Students must not have been enrolled in high school for more than eight consecutive semesters since first enrolling in ninth grade; and students may not compete in a specific high school sport or activity for more than 4 seasons.

Students will not turn 19 years of age on or before August 1.

In accordance with ASAA Bylaws, students must be amateurs in each sport and activity in which they want to participate.

Students must not have been recruited by a person who coaches at the "school of eligibility" or by another school representative.

In accordance with ASAA Bylaws, students must have submitted to a sports physical exam within the prior eighteen months and agree to provide a copy to the school.

If they are hockey players, students must be aware of the limitations on non-school participation during the high school under ASAA's Dual Participation Supplemental Rule for hockey.

Students are aware of and agree to comply with ASAA's "Play for Keeps" tobacco, alcohol and drug (TAD) education program.

Students are aware of and agree to comply with ASAA's or the school district's Concussion Awareness/Education/Management Program.

Students are aware of the risk of Sudden Cardiac Arrest.

It is recommended that the administrator explain to students that the statute does not guarantee that they will be chosen by coaches to fill spots on competitive teams.

If the member school decides to charge a participation fee for alterative education students, ASAA encourages the adoption of a "fair share" policy.

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Checklist For Alternative Education Students

This document has been developed by ASAA to aid a member school in determining the eligibility status of alternative education students as defined in AS 14.30.365 (c)(1) who have identified this school as their requested "school of eligibility."

REGISTER: Before being eligible to participate in high school interscholastic activities, an alternative education student must register with the ASAA member school at which he/she is requesting to participate. This will be called the school of eligibility. School districts are encouraged to adopt a policy which provides public notice and a period of pre-registration.

DEMONSTRATE ELIGIBILITY: An alternative education student must demonstrate eligibility by providing verifiable written evidence of meeting ASAA and school district student eligibility requirements.

NOTE: Please review the following checklist with the student and parents. Unchecked boxes will likely mean that the student has NOT demonstrated eligibility.

- ☐ The student is officially enrolled in grades 9-12 in an "alternative education program" as defined in AS 14.30.365 (c)(1).
- ☐ If student is officially enrolled in an "accredited" home school, the "accreditation agency" has been recognized by the Alaska DEED.

  Name of accreditation agency. _____
- ☐ The student's residence is physically located within the attendance area of the member school, or if not, the student has requested to participate at the member school and has received approval of the school's governing body to do so.
- ☐ The student is currently enrolled in a minimum of courses needed to receive 2.5 units of semester credit, or the equivalent, each of which counts toward graduation through the student's alternative education program. (Exception for Seniors) (ASAA Bylaw Article 12, Section 2, A 4 & 5)
- ☐ The student passed at least 2.5 units of credit, or the equivalent, which count toward graduation, with at least an overall 2.0 GPA for the previous semester (exception for incoming Freshman and Seniors). (ASAA Bylaw Article 12, Section 7, A & B)
- ☐ The student is not seeking to transfer eligibility from another ASAA member. Any request to transfer the student's eligibility from another member high school will be subject to ASAA's transfer rule, (ASAA Bylaw Article 12, Section 9)
- ☐ The student has not been enrolled in high school for more than eight consecutive semesters since first enrolling in 9th grade and has not previously participated for four seasons in a sport or activity for which he/she is seeking eligibility. (ASAA Bylaw Article 12, Section3)
- ☐ The student will not turn 19 on or before August 1.
- ☐ The student is an amateur in each sport and activity in which he/she wants to participate in accordance with ASAA Bylaw Article 8.

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- ☐ The parent and student affirm that he/she has not been recruited by a coach, nor by any other school representative, to play on a team at the school of eligibility. If the student is a hockey player, he/she understands that ASAA's Supplemental Rules limit playing on a non-school hockey team during the high school season.
- ☐ The student has had a sports physical exam within the prior 18 months, and agrees to provide a copy of such to the school of eligibility.
- ☐ The student and parent are aware that participation in ASAA's "Play for Keeps," tobacco, alcohol and drug (TAD) education program is a requirement of eligibility.
- ☐ The student and parent are aware that participation in ASAA's Concussion Education/Awareness/Management Program for student-athletes is a requirement of eligibility.
- ☐ The student and parent are aware of Sudden Cardiac Arrest and have signed the ASAA SCA form.
- ☐ The student and parent understand that AS 14.30.365 does not guarantee the student a position on a school team.
- ☐ The student and parent understand that the school of eligibility may charge a fee, on a "fair share" basis, for participation in an interscholastic sport or activity as defined in AS 14.30.365.
- ☐ The student and parent understand that the student must remain eligible, according to ASAA rules and those of the governing body of the school of eligibility, in order to participate in high school interscholastic activities. Schools which permit ineligible students to participate will be subject to penalties in accordance with ASAA Bylaws.

Student Information Sheet

Student Name _____ Signature _____

Parent/Guardian Name _____ Signature _____

Home Address _____ Phone Number _____

Student Email _____ Parent Email _____

Alternative education program (ie. IDEA) _____ If a home school, it is accredited by _____