Alternative, Adult, and Continuing Education enable lifelong learners to fulfil their academic and personal goals by providing programs which are responsive to their unique needs and interests. These programs are based on the Mission, Vision, and Values of the Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board and the Education Act of the Ministry of Education. In addition, the programs may involve partnerships with other Ministries, educational institutions, and social agencies.

1. **Credit Courses**

   1.1 The Board understands the value of providing opportunities for credit acquisition. The courses and programs that are offered provide alternative settings and assist in developing the self-esteem of learners whatever their age or background. The Board also believes that programs may encourage and assist learners to overcome personal, social, and environmental obstacles to learning through a supportive environment and challenging programs of study that build on learners’ strengths, needs, and interests. Programs may also assist learners to acquire the competencies they require for self-directed learning and provide them with information regarding the requirements for credits, diplomas or certificates needed for entry to college, university, apprenticeship or workplace training.

   1.2 Alternative, Adult, and Continuing Education courses must incorporate the following essential program characteristics to distinguish them from the regular secondary day school and to ensure the success of the learner no matter the learner’s age. Furthermore, the administrative regulations will be written to reflect the following principles:

   - 1.2.1 the use of and validation of life experiences of the alternative learners,
   - 1.2.2 the use of problem-solving as a primary mode of teaching and learning,
   - 1.2.3 continuous entry and immediate feedback,
   - 1.2.4 learner-centred teaching which leads to independent study and increased self-esteem,
   - 1.2.5 flexibility in attendance and assignment deadlines,
   - 1.2.6 appropriate alternative learning environment,
   - 1.2.7 consideration of previous school experiences,
   - 1.2.8 consideration of instructional methods reflective of learner needs and post-secondary destination, and
   - 1.2.9 appropriate mode of instruction for adults and for adolescents in an alternative setting.
1.3 All credit courses must attract sufficient enrolment to generate funding to sustain the programs.

2. Non-credit Courses

2.1 The Board understands the value of providing opportunities for non-credit education. For example, International Languages provided to elementary students and English as a Second Language to adults enhance language acquisition among learners. Other examples may include year-long Literacy and Basic Skills programs and elementary literacy and numeracy programs in the summer that help learners to retain and increase their literacy and numeracy skills after regular school programs are completed. As well, Supervised Alternative Learning is often a non-credit work experience opportunity. Experiential workplace opportunities are encouraged to support learners in achieving their Ontario Secondary School Diploma or Certificate and with their postsecondary goals, the acquisition of essential work skills and knowledge, and transition to the world of work.

2.2 All non-credit courses must attract sufficient enrolment to generate funding to sustain the programs.