


ARKANSAS ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION

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RTI-Assessments (GPS, NBC,





- <http://www.rti4success.org/resources/tools-charts/screening-tools-chart>



Topics of Discussion



What does it take to have a quality AE?

- Defining AE & the Law
- Necessary Components
 - ! **Referral & Placement**
 - ! Curriculum – Direct Instruction & Supplements
 - ! Mental Health Services & Social Skills Training
 - ! Entry & Exit Processes
- Tracking the Data
- Standards/Best Practices
- Assessment

Define Alternative Education

- Differences in admissions criteria, program components, staff, lengths of student involvement, parental and community collaboration, and expected outcomes make defining alternative learning programs difficult.
- Every program is unique to the school and students it is designed to serve.

IMPORTANT TO UNDERSTAND

AE is an Intervention

AE is a PROGRAM - NOT a PLACE.
Students enter until referral concerns have improved. AE is NOT a dumping ground, but a privilege for students.



Consensus:
Meet the needs of at-risk youth



The U. S. Department of Education

An alternative education school is "a public elementary/secondary school that addresses needs of students that typically cannot be met in a regular school, provides nontraditional education, serves as an adjunct to a regular school, or falls outside the categories of regular, special education or vocational education".



What does Arkansas law say about AE?

Arkansas Code on Alternative Education
Act 1118

Title 6 Education

Subtitle 3. Special Educational Programs

Chapter 48 Alternative Learning Environments

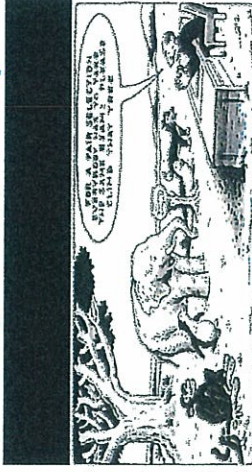


Who is an AE Student? Students At-Risk

- Students should exhibit two or more of the following identified characteristics:
 - 4.02.1.1 Situations that negatively affect the student's academic and social progress may include, but are not limited to:
 - 4.02.1.1.1 Ongoing, persistent lack of attaining proficiency levels in literacy and mathematics;
 - 4.02.1.1.2 Abuse: physical, mental, or sexual;
 - 4.02.1.1.3 Frequent relocation of residency;
 - 4.02.1.1.4 Homelessness;
 - 4.02.1.1.5 Inadequate emotional support;
 - 4.02.1.1.6 Mental/physical health problems;
 - 4.02.1.1.7 Pregnancy; or
 - 4.02.1.1.8 Single parenting.



Positive Perspectives / Compliance



Our Education System
Everybody is a genius. But if you judge a fish by its ability to climb a tree, it will live its whole life believing that it is stupid.



AE Student Considerations:

- 4.02.1.2 Students placed at risk, though intelligent and capable, typically manifest one or more of the following characteristics:
 - 4.02.1.2.1 Personal or family problems or situations;
 - 4.02.1.2.2 Recurring absenteeism;
 - 4.02.1.2.3 Dropping out from school; or
 - 4.02.1.2.4 Disruptive behavior.



Positive Perspectives / Compliance

- "Student assessment either before or upon entry into the class or school"
- "Intervention service designed to address the student's behavioral problems... such intervention services shall not be punitive in nature but must be designed for long-term improvement of the student's ability to control his or her behavior."
- Examples: Graduation Activities, lunch, recess, school electives, clubs, field trips.... "substantially similar" expectations



NOTE:

AE grows as student needs occur. Most commonly, students do NOT start in the AE classroom at the beginning of the school year.

Empowerment: Students choose to accept the intervention support



Referral & Placement: HAVE A PLAN/PROCEDURE

- Referral TEAM conference
- Review Criteria for entrance into AE program
- Parent Conference



You Provide the Empowerment



TEAM?

- AE Teacher/Director
- Administrator
- Parent
- Regular Classroom Teacher
- Counselor
- Student
- Support Individuals: Special Education, Community Advocate, etc.



Criteria for Placement: Relative to program goals and objectives

4.02 - ALE Student Eligibility and Placement

- NOTE: "Student will not be placed in AE based on academic problems alone."
- AE is more than Credit Recovery



Curriculum

Project Based Learning
Interactive: Combined Direct Instruction & Technology
What does research say?



Placement Considerations

- Parents and Student Participation
- Course of action/plan for intervention
- College and Career Readiness
- Progress Monitoring of SAP
- Privilege not punishment for student
- Placement concerns and remediation expectations (time)
- Substantially similar sub-populations
- Hardest to Reach = 2% - 3% of population



Mental Health Services & Social Skills Training

- www.interventioncentral.org
- Behavior Training and Workshops
- Crisis Intervention Training
- Mental Health Professionals & Counselors
- Elementary: Rewards and Points Systems
- Others?



Exit Conference Criteria & Transitioning

- Met expectations
- Team decision
- Transition back into regular classroom



Results:

- Increased Graduation Rate
- Increased Attendance
- Higher Test Scores
- Increased Workforce Competency
- Increased Higher Education Enrollment



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Alternative Education creates new opportunities through non traditional approaches.

