

LINE MOUNTAIN  
SCHOOL DISTRICT

SECTION: PUPILS  
TITLE: ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION  
ADOPTED: April 23, 2002  
REVISED: July 13, 2011  
September 27, 2011

132. ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION

1. Purpose

An alternative education program (AEP) is needed to address the needs of students who are at risk in academics and/or behavior in grades seven (7) through twelve (12).

The AEP will not be a program for long-term discipline problems, but rather a program for at-risk students to either return to the regular classroom program or graduate with the skills necessary to become a productive, responsible adult. Academically capable students are becoming turned off to school for a variety of social reasons. Adjudication as a delinquent or dependent child, environmental stress, peer pressure, previous retention, drug and alcohol abuse are a few of the societal concerns the district faces within the student population. These students must have an alternative means of education or the impact of the students' conflicted life will intensify. Punitive measures are NOT the answer. A student, given time to rejuvenate his/her self-perspective, feelings and goals under structured supervision within a positive atmosphere, will be encouraged to return to regular classroom programs where s/he will be successful.

The goals of the alternative education program shall be as follows:

1. To return students to the regular classroom.
2. To provide basic skills necessary to become a productive, responsible adult.
3. To build positive self-esteem in students.
4. To develop content students who are successful in society.
5. To develop good citizenship in students.
6. To focus the student's educational program to provide the best pathway in life.
7. To ensure students graduate from high school.
8. To ensure students attain academic success.

The students to be served by this program shall be in grades seven (7) through twelve (12) ranging in age from twelve (12) through but not including twenty-one (21) years of age.

#### Program Indicators

The following indicators may qualify a student for the alternative education program:

1. Previous retention.
2. At-risk behavior.
3. Current low achievement in classroom instruction.
4. Lack of effort/motivation.
5. Social problems.
6. A request for AEP placement by a parent, teacher or the student.
7. Attendance problems.
8. Environmental issues.
9. Adjudication as a delinquent or dependent child.

#### Type of Instruction

Instruction will be individualized according to the student's respective grade level and ability. Content area-instructors will be assigned to the alternative education program and will come to the alternative education class to teach their particular content. The designated alternate education instructor will assist all instructors in following the core academic objectives according to the student's respective grade level and ability. The student's normal academic program will be followed to ensure prompt return to the regular classroom where applicable. Group sessions will occur to discuss career awareness, coping skills, study skills and accomplish team activities, i.e. community service projects. The team will be rated on their cooperative initiatives. Students will be given the opportunity to job shadow, and to follow up with on-the-job training.

#### Return to Mainstream

Each participating student will enter a behavior/academic contract developed at the onset of placement. Weekly reviews will be documented to record student progress. A determination will be made initially by the student and teacher and finalized by the building principal/Child Study Team to ascertain the appropriateness of having

the student return to full-time regular classroom programs.

The student will meet the contract criteria pertinent to agreement made at the onset of AEP placement. Areas of emphasis will include:

1. Achieve academic progress.
2. Diminish behavior problems.
3. A subjective evaluation indicating an improvement in attitude toward school and authority figures.
4. Demonstrate improvement in study skills.
5. Eliminate unexcused absences/tardies.
6. Demonstrate good citizenship.
7. Demonstrate behavior conducive to productive, responsible adult behavior.
8. Exhibit self-esteem which will enhance successful social interaction.

#### Planned Course

Students will follow the regular district planned course of study. In addition, computer assisted instruction will be incorporated into the curriculum.

#### Student Assignment

A Child Study Team meeting will be held to determine the appropriateness of an alternative education program placement. Following the placement recommendation, an enrollment meeting will be held with the parents, student, guidance counselor, AEP teacher and the principal to explain the contract and to secure the necessary signatures.

Students assigned due to behavior reasons will be assigned after an administrative level due process hearing for the respective behavior problems and with the approval of the building principal and Superintendent, or with approval of the Board after a due process hearing.