

ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION (AE)



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?

AE report issued by the Arkansas Bureau of
Legislative Research.

http://www.arkleg.state.ar.us/data/education/ALE_Report_Final.pdf

Arkansas Code on Alternative Education
Act 1118

Title 6 Education

Subtitle 3. Special Educational Programs

Chapter 48 Alternative Learning Environments



Bureau of Legislative Research



State Categorical Funding Review Alternative Learning Environments (ALE)

April 15, 2014

Prepared for the
**THE HOUSE INTERIM COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
AND THE SENATE INTERIM COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION**



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What is AE?

- **Alternative Education:**
- **A student intervention program in compliance with AR Code: 6-48 that seeks to eliminate traditional barriers to student learning**
- **Every District is required to provide an Alternative Learning Environment**
- **Over 10,000 students served yearly**

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.

- *AE is to be separate from ISS.
- *AE is much more developed than Credit Recovery alone (credit recovery can be an element of AE but not the only element)



Who is an AE Student?

Students At-Risk

- Students should exhibit two or more of the following identified characteristics:
- Ongoing, persistent lack of attaining proficiency levels in literacy and mathematics
- Abuse: physical, mental, sexual
- Frequent relocation of residency
- Homelessness
- Inadequate emotional support
- Mental/physical health problems
- Pregnancy
- Single Parenting
- Personal or family problem situations
- Recurring absenteeism
- Drop out from school
- Disruptive Behavior



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





Worth 1000.com

Referral & Placement: HAVE A PLAN/PROCEDURE

- Referral TEAM conference*
- Review Criteria for entrance into AE program

*Parent and/or student comments.



TEAM?

- **AE Teacher/Director**
- **Administrator**
- **Parent**
- **Regular Classroom Teacher**
- **Counselor**
- **Student**
- **SPED/Therapist/Casemanager/- as needed**



Criteria for Placement: Relative to program goals and objectives

- NOTE: “Student will not be placed in AE based on any one issue but a combination of concerns.”

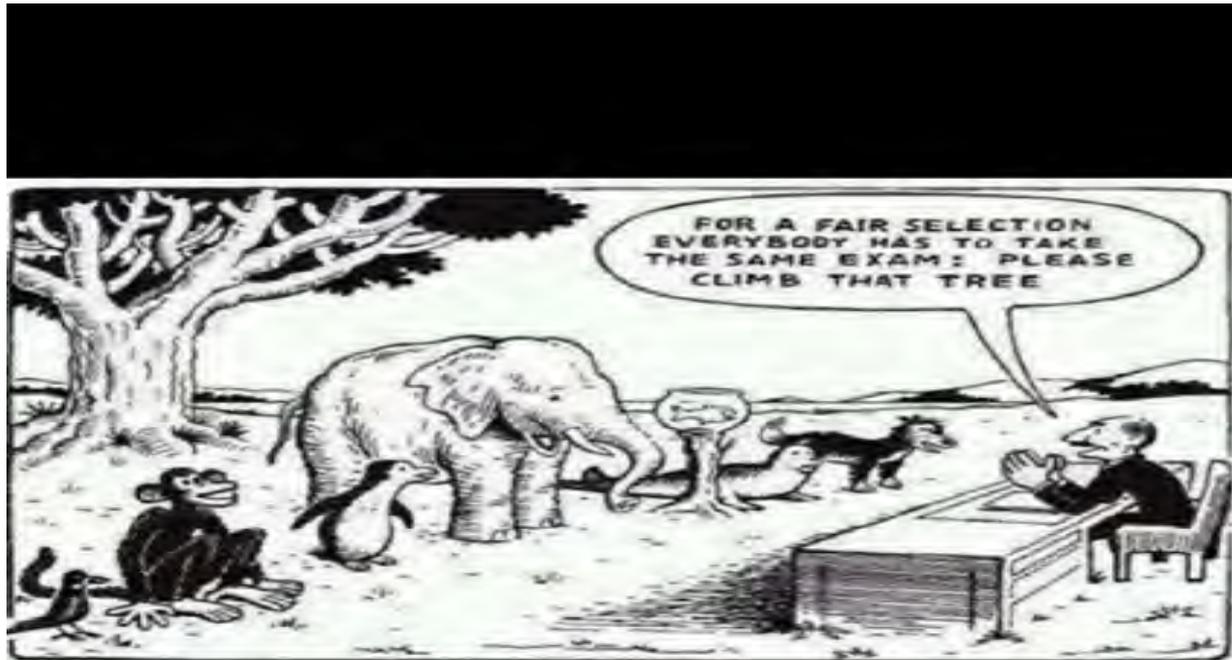


Placement Criteria

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Positive Perspectives / Compliancy



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.



ARKANSAS
DEPARTMENT
OF EDUCATION

Positive Perspectives / Compliancy

- “Student assessment either before or upon entry into the class or school”
- “Intervention services designed to address the student’s behavioral needs (if needed)...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



Culture and Climate

- Furniture, Tables, Roller Chairs, Centers,
- Alternate Lighting, Direct, Clamp-On-Desk Lamps, Floor Lamps
- Refrigerator, Microwave,
 - Measuring and Cooking Equipment
 - Bowls, Cups, Utensils, etc.
- Healthy Snacks: Ramen Noodles, Oatmeal, Water, Tea, Hot Choc.
- Soft Music
- Comfortable Seating
- Pleasant Scent: (Plug In, Febreeze, Coffee Beans, Etc.)



Bad Days Happen



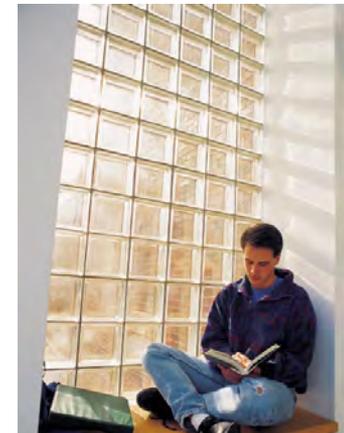
Mental Health Services & Social Skills Training

- 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



AE Students

- **Must be included in all district statistics**
- **Must participate in all statewide exams**



Remember

- **AE should not be Punitive!**

- **AE should provide:**

- **Guidance**
- **Counseling**
- **Academic Support**

Reports and Deadlines:

Program Description: March 31st annually

Annual Report and Cycle 7: June 15th annually

Student Coding: Cycle 2,3,4,5,6,7

Summer Conference: July Annually



Alternative Education creates new opportunities through non traditional approaches.



Results:

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



QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

