



2010-2011 ALE Program Description Approval Submission Form

ADE USE ONLY: DATE &

INITIALS

Approved: _____

Pending: _____

Approval: _____

Unapproved: _____

Please provide the following data regarding the alternative learning environment (ALE) for the 2010-2011 school year:

District Name: DECATUR SCHOOL DISTRICT 0402

Director's Name: TOMMY BAKER E-Mail: tbaker@dsd.k12.ar.us

ALE Program Name: Decatur Academy

(Districts with more than one program must complete a separate Program Description for each program.)

Address: 1498 Stadium Avenue Decatur, Arkansas 72722

Phone#: (479) 752-3986 Cell#: Fax#: (479) 752-2490

Please complete the following state-mandated components for every ALE provided.

Make sure you have included your district ALE forms as a Word Document.

Note: Provide complete thorough answers to the questions; boxes will expand as you type.

1. Describe the type of placement, progress, and transitional documentation used. (4.02.19) (Grades, AYP, and Conferences.)

Placement:

- Student Referral Form and Application Packet that will include academic documents and entrance criteria
- Minutes from each ALE Placement Committee Meeting
- Minutes from Exit Meeting with parents and student
- Discipline records from high school

Progress:

- Quarterly Progress Reports, including both formative and summative assessment data
- Bi-annual parent/teacher conferences

Transition Monitoring:

- Transitional reports with high school counselor
- Records pertaining to transition from outside agencies, special education programs, career/technical programs, and home-school programs.

2. Describe how the ALE is a supportive/non punitive environment. (4.02.1.10)

The Decatur Academy will implement supportive strategies that are designed to provide an educational environment that supports learning for all students. Highly qualified teachers in each of the content areas will provide a variety of instructional formats that align with individual learning styles, including the following strategies:

- Focus on credit recovery program through computer-based instruction, individual tutoring, and small group instruction. Provisions will also be made for students to attend career/technical and elective courses on the high school campus.
- Adherence to minimum 20 day enrollment during which the ALE staff will work closely with each student to complete course requirements and areas of deficiencies in schoolwork.
- Implement small literature groups that align with Arkansas Frameworks in each area of the curriculum, with an emphasis on English content area standards. Students who have an AIP in the area of literacy will receive supplemental instruction in the identified areas of deficiency.
- Implement small group instruction for mathematics skills and standards that align with each course area in grades 7-12th. Students who have an AIP or IAIP in the area of mathematics will receive supplemental instruction in the identified areas of deficiency.
- Schedule daily physical education for students attending the Decatur Academy and allow students that participated in extracurricular activities prior to attending the Decatur Academy to continue participating in the activities during their attendance in the ALE program.

3. Describe the proposed teacher/student ratios and how ratios will be monitored on a regular basis. (4.02.1.3 & 4.02.1.4)

Teacher/student ratio of 15:1 will be implemented and maintained during the instructional day. This will include one certified teacher and paraprofessionals that will be utilized to provide required release time for the ALE teacher and during transition periods.

Teacher/student ratio will be monitored by the program director through both student attendance data and substitute placement to accommodate absenteeism.

4. Describe how individual counseling services will be provided. (4.02.1.5)

Counseling and intervention services will be provided through a school counselor on a regular basis. In addition, the school counselors will be available to assist individual students with academic, social, career, and post-secondary issues during the school day.

Additional counseling services are also available and will be scheduled, as needed, through Ozark Guidance Counseling Services.

5. Describe how instruction will be supplemented by technology. (4.02.1.11)
Individual and small group instruction in an integral part of the ALE program. In addition to teacher-directed instruction, students will complete course requirements through utilization of the Plato Pathways Learning Systems and/or APEX computer-based learning modules. Students will also have access to internet resources to assist them in research projects and other avenues to obtain information for academic purposes.
6. List the supplemental technology used.
Plato Pathways Learning Systems, APEX computer modules, JeDI learning modules, Heartbeeps software, Sony e-readers, eInstruction Classroom Performance Systems and Interactive Whiteboards, and Mobi Interactive Boards.
7. If Credit Recovery is a component of the ALE program describe how it is used and list materials used.
The Decatur Academy will offer a Credit Recovery program that will be developed through the collaboration of the school counselor, content area teachers, parents, and special education personnel, when applicable. The program will focus on the fulfillment of course requirements that will lead to attainment of course credit pursuant to high school graduation requirements. Each student's individual credit recovery program will reflect alignment and coordination with other educational plans, such as Individual Education Plans (IEP), Academic Improvement Plan (AIP), and Intensive Academic Improvement Plan (IAIP) for each content area. The instructional materials that will be utilized include, but are not limited to computer-based software, individualized and small group instruction from highly qualified content area teachers, career/technical teachers, textbooks, The Learning Institute formative assessments to monitor interim progress of skill attainment, and supplemental materials and modifications that meet individual student needs.
8. Describe the placement process and how all team members will be included. (4.02.1.8)
Placement Process:
 - Submit Referral Form for the Decatur Academy. Referral can be made by school counselor, parent, student or teacher
 - Application Packet is completed and submitted
 - Decatur Academy ALE Committee is convened to review application and make recommendation pertaining to placement
 - Parents and student are notified regarding committee recommendation
 - If placement was recommended, student will complete and provide documentation of drug screening. If placement is not recommended, parents are notified and can schedule a conference with school personnel to review program criteria and student application
 - School counselor will assess each student that is recommended for placement to determine credit needs
 - Student is placed in Decatur Academy ALE program
Team Members:
 - All Decatur Academy ALE team members are notified through email, intra-school notifications, and meetings
 - All Decatur Academy ALE members in attendance for meetings will provide written verification of attendance

9. Describe the general school curriculum used and how it is aligned with Arkansas standards. (4.02.1.13)
All curriculum that is incorporated into the instructional process through the ALE program aligns with the Arkansas Frameworks. This includes Plato Learning components, small group instruction in math and literacy, JeDI computer-based modules, individualized academic projects, physical education, and character education programs.
10. Describe how SPED students placed in ALE will receive services and be monitored. §6-18-509 (b) (2)
Completed applications and corresponding documentation for students receiving services through the Special Education department will be reviewed by the Decatur LEA Special Education Supervisor to insure compliance with special education guidelines, individual student education plans, modifications, behavior plans, and accommodations that will meet the needs of each student. Academic progress will be monitored through regular team meetings attended by the Decatur Academy staff, school counselor, special education teacher, and school principal.
11. Describe the ALE Exit Criteria and how the transitional success will be monitored. (4.02.1.14)
The Decatur Academy ALE teacher will meet with the parents and student during the Exit Interview. A review of the student's progress will be provided through progress documentation.

If the student will be transferring to the high school from the Decatur Academy ALE program, a review of credits obtained will be completed by the school counselor and be made available to the parent and student prior to the transfer.

The Decatur Academy ALE committee will review all documentation for transfer requests submitted, include both to and from the ALE program to the high school setting. The Decatur Academy ALE committee will make recommendations pertaining to the transfer, noting any concerns that would need to be addressed. These concerns will be presented and discussed with parent and student during the exit interview.

12. Describe the ALE Placement Criteria and how the process will be monitored. (4.02.1.9 & 4.02.1.16)
The Decatur Academy ALE committee will meet regularly to review student applications, student progress, and program goals and objectives. All minutes recorded for each meeting will be retained by the program director. Attendance records for each member will also be retained.

Recommendations made by the Decatur Academy ALE committee will be documented and will become part of program documentation and a copy will be placed in each respective student's folder.

Compliance with program standards will be monitored by Decatur Academy ALE Program Director regularly.

Semi-annual reports will be made to the Board of Education and will include the following criteria:

- Number of students enrolled in program

- Placement criteria (aligning with program standards)
- Grade Level
- Length of attendance in Decatur Academy ALE program

13. Describe the career centered intervention services being implemented in the ALE program. §6-18-509 (b) (2) (career ed, social skills curriculum, etc.)

The Decatur Academy staff will collaborate with career/technical teachers to develop an integrated curriculum plan to allow students attending the Decatur Academy to attend career/technical classes on the high school campus. Students will also be encouraged to participate in school sponsored career/technical activities and student organizations.

The school counselor will assist Decatur Academy staff in coordinating student schedules to insure completion of both core curriculum requirements and career/technical completer requirements are fulfilled in the student's career pathways. The school counselor will also be available to assist students in exploring both vocational and post-secondary opportunities in their career field preferences.

The Decatur Academy staff will coordinate with local businesses to schedule career explorations that will allow students to learn more about prerequisite skills required by various business, career opportunities, and career skills such as interview strategies and work expectations for job positions.

The Decatur Academy staff will develop a career exploration plan that will include inviting business representatives to present information pertaining to their respective organization to the students attending the Decatur Academy throughout the 2010-2011 school year.

14. Describe the immediate needs of the ALE program(s). (training, supplies, staff, etc.)

It will be very important to provide comprehensive professional development in areas relating to alternative learning environments to Decatur Academy staff during the 2010-2011 school year. Professional development opportunities would include attendance at the ALE State Conference, as well as local workshops that are designed to increase educator knowledge in topics such as effective instructional strategies, current research in alternative learning programs, educational "best practices", and exploring key components and practices of successful alternative learning environments. The staff will be encouraged to visit neighboring alternative learning programs, community agencies that offer coordinating services, and trainings in behavior management and techniques.

Educational technology, such as computers, printers, and software will be purchased and installed during the summer months. The technology will be maintained by the district technology staff during the regular school year. Funds will be allocated for the purchase of instructional materials and supplies that will supplement formal instruction, and will include literature, science equipment, math manipulatives, and supplemental materials to the content area textbooks.

Quarterly meetings of the Decatur Academy staff will be scheduled to foster both collaboration and coordination between the high school and Decatur Academy staff to insure a successful transition between the two campuses and to provide an optimal learning environment for the students.

By my signature below, I hereby certify that this is the program description for 2010-2011 school year, in compliance with all laws and rules governing alternative learning environments. Districts out of compliance with § 6-18-508 & § 6-18-509 will be identified and not approved according to Arkansas Department of Education procedures.

School District Decatur School District

School District LEA Number: 0402-009

Printed name of Superintendent

Signature of Superintendent

Date

Printed name of ALE Teacher/Director

Signature of ALE Teacher/Director

Date

Telephone Number

Fax Number

E-Mail

DUE ON OR BEFORE March 31, 2010

E-mail to: gail.brown@arkansas.gov

and

Mail original forms to:
Lori Lamb, Director
Arkansas Department of Education
Alternative Learning Environment
420 North Main
Greenwood, AR 72936