The State of Alternative Education in Georgia

February 25-27, 2019

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• Place electronics on silence/vibrate
• Stay focused on the task at hand
• Respectfully share opinions
• Speak one at a time
• Actively engage in learning
• Enjoy!!
The State of Alternative Education in Georgia

The Every Student Succeeds Act: The Highlights

- Increase awareness of expectations and opportunities for evidence-based school and district improvement
- Alternative Education schools – $75,000.00 Allocation
The State of Alternative Education in Georgia

- Effective Leadership
- Supportive Learning Environment
- Family & Community Engagement
The State of Alternative Education in Georgia

The message to send about Alternative Education is that Alternative Programs and Schools are great for students, because we do not live in a one size fits all society.
Agenda
Learning Target

I will be able to compare/contrast acceptable definitions of Alternative Education and become familiar with the AEP Standards and the Georgia State Board of Education Rule 160-4-8-.12 for Alternative/Non-traditional Education.
Essential Question

How do school leaders design and support alternative educational options with a focus on

- meeting the needs of a target population
- a suitable setting
- appropriate services
- A successful structure
• Research, review, and comprehend definitions of alternative education

• Locate and identify the components of the Georgia State Board of Education Rule 160-4-8-.12 for alternative education

• Define best practices for the alternative education program standards
Who are we, really?

- What do you do?
- Whom do you serve?
- What do they need from you and how do you know?
- How do they change as a result of what you do for (and with) them?

Adapted from 2018 McREL International District Leadership That Works
Federal Level Definition

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 or vocational education. (Sable, Plotts, & Mitchell, 2010, p.C1)
Definition

According to the National Center for Education Evaluation and Regional Assistance (2014)...

Alternative Education Programs fall outside of the traditional K-12 curriculum, include home schooling, general educational development (GED) programs, gifted and talented programs, and charter schools (Aron, 2006)
Definition

According to the National Center for Education Evaluation and Regional Assistance (2014)...

Individual States or School Districts define the features of their Alternative Education Programs (Lehr, Lanners, & Lange, 2003), therefore they may differ in target population, setting, services, and structure.
Definition

According to the National Center for Education Evaluation and Regional Assistance (2014)...

• Forty-three States and the District of Columbia have formal definitions of Alternative Education

• Alternative Education should include the target population, setting, services, and structure

• Alternative Education serves primarily students with behavioral problems (35 States)
Definition

According to the National Center for Education Evaluation and Regional Assistance (2014)...

• The most common Alternative Education services are regular academic instruction (21 states), counseling (14 states), social/life skills (13 state), job readiness (12 states) and behavioral services.

• Eighteen states allow Alternative Education programs to be held in separate schools; 12 are within a regular school.

• Exemptions to compulsory attendance laws for Alternative education programs occur at the District Level.
Historical Perspective of Alternative Education in Georgia

• Georgia’s Alternative/Non-traditional Education Program began as a state grant funded program in 1994, known as the Crossroads Alternative Education Program

• The A+ Education Reform Act of 2000 eliminated the Crossroads Grants
Historical Perspective of Alternative Education in Georgia

• The Quality Basic Education (QBE) funds began providing for the Alternative Education Program for students in grades 6-12

• Effective May, 2010, the State Board of Education adopted the name Alternative/Non-traditional Education Program (AEP)
Alternative Education

Program
• An Alternative/Non-traditional Education Program that operates in affiliation with a school(s)
• A program does not report Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) or receive a state or federal accountability determination
• Achievement data for students enrolled in the program are reported back to the school where the student is reported for FTE
• The Program may be housed within a school, or on the same site or at a different location
Alternative School

School

• An Alternative/Non-traditional Education School has an official school code and serves as the home school for students enrolled

• The school receives a state or federal accountability determination; reports FTE counts for all enrolled students; and earns Quality Basic Education (QBE) formula funds directly
Georgia Alternative Programs

# of Programs – 369

❖ Graduate with base school

❖ Usually adhere to the course requirements of the base school

❖ Administration is usually someone within the school and reports to the base school
Georgia Alternative Programs

- May provide CTAE Course from the base school if schedules allow

- Students remain a part of the base school and cannot separate themselves

- Staff is usually those who may be less than highly qualified and/or involuntarily placed at the school
Georgia Alternative Schools

# of Schools – 63

- Has their own Graduation

- May adjust course requirements to provide competency in course areas

- Develops the Admin. Team to set the policies and procedures for the school
Georgia Alternative Schools

- Can develop CTAE to fit the needs of the students and provide digital curriculum opportunities

- Students become members of the school and build a network of people like them

- Autonomy of developing staff to fit the needs of the students
Governor’s Office of Student Achievement (Nov. 2017)

Non-Traditional School Definition...

• A school that exists for the distinct purpose to serve students who have unique instructional needs that are not adequately addressed in a traditional classroom setting. These schools include:

• Residential Treatment Centers

• Department of Juvenile Justice Schools
Governor’s Office of Student Achievement (Nov. 2017)

• Alternative Schools that exist to solely serve students having behavioral, disciplinary, or academic problems

• Schools that exist to help recently arrived immigrant and/or refugee students transition to traditional school environments
Governor’s Office of Student Achievement (Nov. 2017)

- Schools that exist for dropout prevention and serve students deemed at-risk of dropping out

- Special education schools that exist to serve students with severe and multiple disabilities
Georgia State Board of Education
Rule 160-4-8-/12

• The Georgia State Rule for Alternative/Non-traditional Education Programs is designed to provide some flexibility at the local level and includes:

  • Definitions
  • Requirements for the LEA
  • Reporting Requirements
  • School Improvement Plan
Georgia State Board of Education
Rule 160-4-8-.12

Alternative Education Program  GaDOE Website…

• http://www.gadoe.org/School-Improvement/School-Improvement-Services/Pages/Alternative-Education-Program-and-Magnet-Schools.aspx
Georgia Alternative Education Program Standards

Georgia has 9 alternative education program standards for districts and schools
1. Conducts routine and systematic program evaluations to improve educational programs and services

2. Implements a transition process to support a seamless entry to the alternative education program and a seamless return to the traditional home school or external agency, which includes a plan for transition success

3. Provides students with opportunities to maintain or accelerate their current progress toward graduation
4. Develops and implements a graduation plan for each student
5. Provides meaningful service learning opportunities that are aligned to the Georgia Standards of Excellence to support student achievement
6. Program leadership communicates effectively and efficiently
7. Supports the academic success of students with a counseling program that is grounded in research based practices, addresses the current and future needs of students, and targets academic performance.

8. Facilitates the academic success of students with a social work program that is responsive, rigorous, and emphasizes intervention and prevention services.

9. Supports the academic success of students with the effective implementation of a rigorous, data-driven digital and virtual learning program aligned to state content standards.
State-wide Focus Groups

Purpose – to solicit the perceptions of stakeholders on Alternative Education in Georgia

- Metro Area – March 19, 2019
- North Area – March 21, 2019
- South Area – March 28, 2019
Essential Question

How do school leaders design and support alternative educational options with a focus on:

- meeting the needs of a target population
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- appropriate services
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Evaluation

Direct Link: https://tinyurl.com/WILC19
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