

ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION FACT SHEET

What is effective alternative education?

- It requires a placement long enough to foster success.
- It adjusts the educational environment to the student's needs, with the belief that learning occurs in many types of learning environments.
- It provides success for students experiencing behavioral or academic challenges.
- It uses pre/post student placement data to measure academic and behavioral gains.
- It should include non-traditional methods of instruction such as an outdoor classroom, service-learning instruction, interdisciplinary course modules, or online learning experiences.
- It includes an emphasis on social skills.
- It requires the best teachers in your system.

What is NOT effective alternative education?

- It is *not* punishment for misbehavior in traditional settings.
- It is *not* requiring students to work on grade level without adequate skill building.
- It is *not* in-school suspension
- It is *not* a holding tank where students mark time, but a place where students move forward in their educational and life goals.

Why alternative education?

- Kentucky law mandates that all districts provide educational services in alternative settings to expelled students, except in those rare cases when the Board determines that there is clear and convincing evidence that the student is a danger to him/herself or others.
- Kentucky law mandates all students achieve at high levels, attaining proficiency according to KERA standards by 2014.
- It is in your community's best interests to ensure a high level of educational competency for all students.
- Alternative education, done well, fosters a sense of community-building that enhances quality of life for everyone.
- Because *all* students deserve a chance to succeed.

How do we recognize a good alternative education program?

- It is based on current research for effective programs.
- It has structured and supportive teachers and classrooms.
- It uses appropriate curriculum for the student's achievement levels.
- It features high quality, engaging and learner-centered instruction.
- It includes multiple and continuous assessments.
- It has a positive, individualized approach to pro-social behaviors and discipline.
- It provides quality and ongoing professional development for teachers and staff.
- It receives financial and philosophical support from the district.
- It requires well-defined family and community involvement.
- It identifies clearly defined student outcomes.



**For more information contact the Kentucky Center for School Safety Clearinghouse
877-805-4277 or visit their website at www.kysafeschools.org**