SOAR Overview

ALTERNATIVE PROGRAM

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Alternative Program Processes

Leadership Structure

Intake/Orientation –

Parental Involvement
- Opportunities to Visit School
- Contact with teachers

IEPs and Intake of Students with Disabilities

Building the Culture

Alternative Program

The mission of the alternative school program is to provide a **safe**, **supportive**, and **structured environment** where students facing academic, behavioral, or social-emotional challenges can **rediscover their potential.**

Through individualized plans, restorative practices, and wraparound support, we will **empower students to take ownership of their education**, develop resilience, and re-engage in meaningful pathways toward graduation and **lifelong success**.

Alternative Program Processes

Leadership and Support Structure – Wrap-around Services

- Alisa Hamrick – Director of SOAR
- Koshon Mitchell - Middle School Assistant Principal
- Josh Snipes – High School Assistant Principal
- Tracey McCormack – School Counselor
- Michelle Burns – Lead Behavior Interventionist
- Stephanie House – Transition Coordinator
- On-Staff Mental Health Support from ABMH, twice weekly
- Two *Fresh Start* monitors
- Five Lab Proctors/Instructional Aides
- One SRO, One ISS Monitor and Two Character Coaches
- Four Middle School Teachers + PE – Khaleelah Stroman, Lead
- Four High School Teachers + PE – Angela Walker, Lead
- Two Special Education Teachers – Phebbie Williams, Lead

Alternative Program Processes

Intake and Orientation - Parent and Student are responsible for taking necessary steps to ensure student is enrolled **without delay** (*Delayed start was a common complaint from the board in the past)

- **Orientation** – Self-paced **Schoology-based** course that parent and student complete together **before** the Transition Meeting (Transportation form and immediate student start).

- **Transition Meeting** – **Face-to-face** meeting with parent and support team to collaboratively establish student's behavior goals. Parent chooses the date and time at the end of the orientation

- **Fresh Start** – One-day, in-person course each new student must complete prior to attending academic classes

*The whole process is designed to **reduce wait time**, **establish goals**, **connect** the parent to a partnership with the program-based team, and set the student on the **path to success**. Expulsion Hearing to alternative program start as soon as possible.

Alternative Program Processes

Parental Involvement – Parents play a key role in getting their students back on the right path to being successful in school.

- Opportunities to Visit School
  - Meet The Teacher – Aug 17, 2025
  - Open House – Sept 12, 2025
  - Transition Meeting (to and from the alternative program) – immediately following the orientation
  - Parent-Teacher Conference Day – Oct 20, 2025
- Contact with teachers
  - Teachers are encouraged to make contact with parents of new students as they enroll, at lease once while the student is enrolled and at any time there is progress or lack of progress to report.

Alternative Program Processes

IEPs and Intake of Students with Disabilities

When teams are considering placement of a student with a disability (IEP or Section 504), the alternative school program admin team and key teachers take part in a **'Staffing Meeting'** with the home school team. Key topics include: Services Provided, Curriculum and Instruction, Supports in Place, Possible Goals, Student Needs.

When the **Change of Placement** IEP or 504 meeting is scheduled, the alternative program admin team is invited to participate and give further input, but because a staffing meeting already took place, attendance is encouraged but not required as placement at the alternative school is only one of the placement options the team discusses.

* This process helps the home school IEP or 504 Team make an informed decision on how best to serve the student and his or her needs, without having to wait for the alternative program team or go by their schedule. This was an area of concern noted by board members and principals.

Alternative Program Processes

Transition Process – the team believes that it takes time to change a behavior and develop new habits, but that we have a responsibility to do all we can to help a student transition successfully back to the home school setting or into a setting where he or she can be successful.

Transition Review and Decision – Transition Review meeting is held near the end of the alternative placement. The team considers:

◦ Consistent **attendance** and **academic progress** (*Consistent Attendance was a concern voiced by the board and school admin)

◦ **Positive behavior** and adherence to expectations – (progress over perfection)

◦ Completion of all **transition goals**

◦ Input from student, family, alternative program staff and the home school. (For students with disabilities, this review occurs in the context of an IEP or 504 meeting)

Successful transition is a team effort, staff is committed to ensuring students leave with confidence, skills, and the mindset needed to thrive in their next educational setting. (Alternative Program Handbook)

Alternative Program Processes

Building the Culture – to be successful and build a strong culture, we must commit to:

- **Communicate** often and in specific terms with Faculty and Staff;
- Provide **Professional Development** and **Training** on new processes;
- Use the Capturing Kids' Hearts approach to hosting faculty and staff PLC Meetings and gatherings to build the team (**Social Contract, EXCEL Method, Feedback Loops, Town Hall and Dept Meetings**, etc.).

The SOAR Alternative Program Admin Team is committed to:

- Listen to faculty and staff and adjust as needed,
- Listen to home schools and adjust as needed,
- Listen to students and adjust as needed.

Naming of the Program

Results of the survey were inconclusive
- ◦ Unless the Board has a suggestion, we recommend retaining the previous name of The Center for Innovative Learning at Pinecrest.

Proposed Names

- Achieve Academy

- Aventus Academy

- Achievement Academy

- Ambition Academy

- Champion Academy

- Engagement Academy

- Opportunity School

- Prevail Academy

- Prospect Academy

- Restore Academy

- SOAR Success Program (SSP)

- School Of Engagement

- School Of Reengagement

- Summit Academy

- Triumph Academy

*Any name with 'Academy' in the name would be changed to 'Program'