ALTERNATIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

MAY 3, 2011





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 - Heard an overview of an alternative learning plan.



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 - ** Been provided with information on how to offer support and on how to provide more input.





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- # Implement (likely into the start of next year)





Safe learning environments where every student has the opportunity to achieve...



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- * Appropriate use of technology to further learning...
- ...high expectations for student success, student, parental and community engagement, and continuous improvement.



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Goal #4

By the Spring of 2014, 95% of the district's stakeholders will indicate satisfaction with the learning environment...



PURPOSE OF CHANGE



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** In order to meet the varying needs of the student population, Aiken County Public Schools must have a flexible and seamless learning environment for elementary, middle, and bigh school students.



PINECREST DATA GENERAL EDUCATION



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Category of Student	Number
2010-2011 Total Enrollment	194
Currently at Pinecrest	96
Transitioned Back to General Eduction Setting	34 (17.5%)
Withdrawn	10
Expelled	54 (27.8%)
No Show	3



OUT OF 53 STUDENTS AT BYRD LEARNING CENTER IN FEBRUARY (THERE ARE 87 AT BLC

NOW) • • • • •



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Category of Student	Number
DJJ	14
DSS	18
Foster Care	7
Receive Mental Health Services	35
Placed in Hospital for Psychiatric Care	9





National research tells us......





In 1998, there were **3,850** public alternative schools. In 2001, **10,900** alternative schools were reported. This increase in recent years is due to increased violence in schools. Approximately 12% of these students were identified as disabled (Foley & Pang, 2206).





In response to zero tolerance policies designed to remove dangerous students from school, there has been an increasing number of young people recommended for expulsion (Telzrow, 2001).

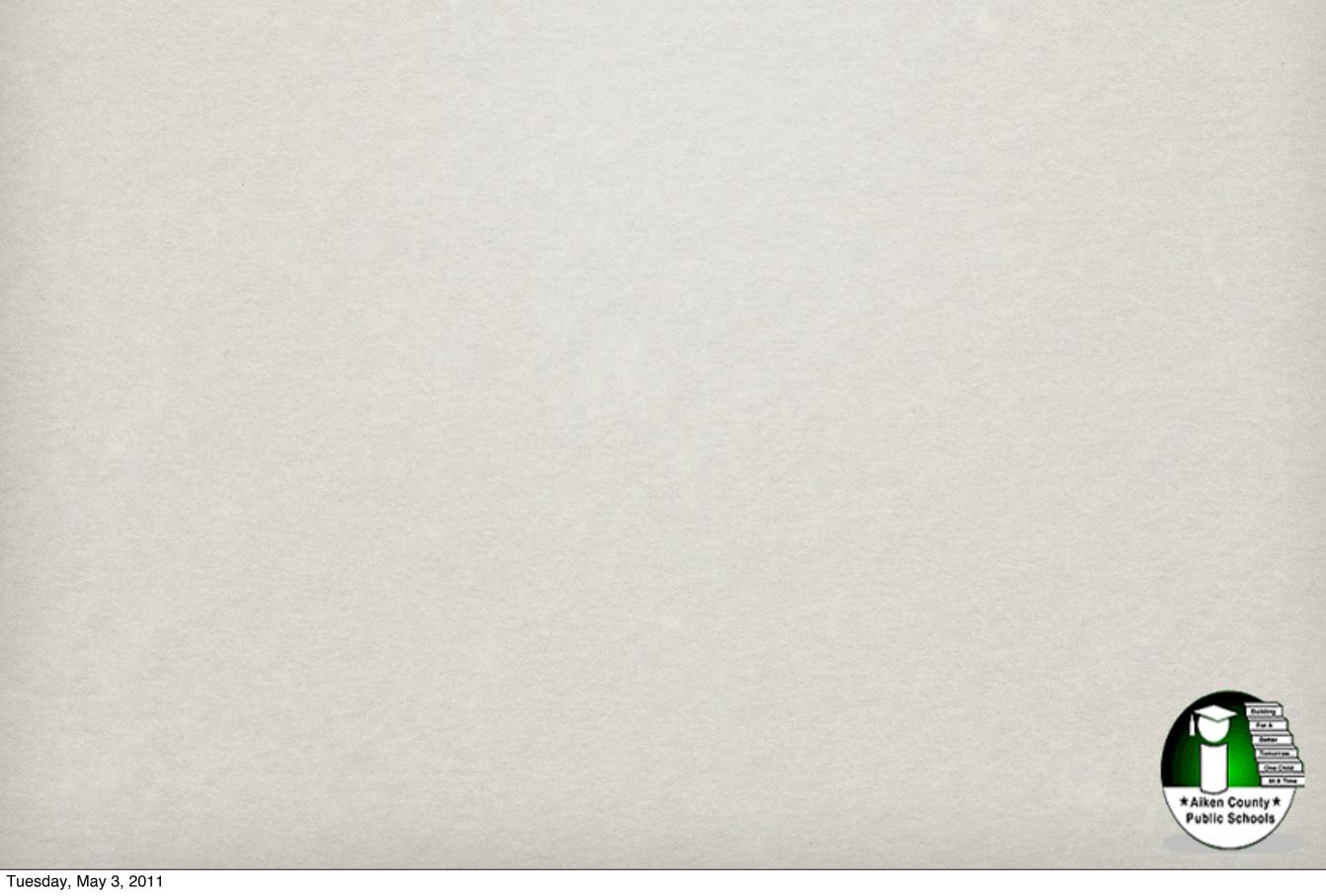




Dropping out forced Americans into dead end jobs where they made little to support their families; or worse, they turned to **unhealthy lifestyles and crime** (Pascopella, 2007).







DO WE HAVE SUCCESSES FROM WHICH WE CAN BUILD?

(PARENT OF STUDENT CURRENTLY AT BLC)



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PROPOSED FRAMEWORK ADDITIONS/MODIFICATIONS 2011-2012





**** Holistic** approach



- **** Holistic** approach
- Meeting *individual needs* academic, behavioral, emotional, etc.



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 - **Community and parent engagement**



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- Meeting *individual needs* academic, behavioral, emotional, etc.
 - Duke and Griesdon (1999) suggested that school administrators examine their alternative school population and offer more than one type of alternative program based on student needs.

- ****** Transitional services
- **Community and parent engagement**



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- Begin organizing community involvement in providing social/emotional interventions for students, parents, and teachers for identified students in their home schools prior to
 - Early intervention programs for children are more likely to change behavior than later rehabilitation programs for adolescents or adults. (Tobin, T. & Sprague, J., Fall 2000).
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CHANGE OUR INSTRUCTIONAL DELIVERY MODEL AS NEEDED

SAL KAHN ON VIRTUAL LEARNING





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- ** Provide **transition assistance** for students returning to home schools.



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 - Some interventions which have yielded positive outcomes for alternative school students were psychotherapy, applied behavior analysis, cognitive-behavioral methods, social development interventions, youth involvement and opportunity initiatives, and social caseworker intervention (Van Acker, 2007).

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- Offer a structured disciplined setting (military, for example) as needed.



**One centralized location for the remainder of the Characteristics of some alternative schools that facilitate successful school completion for those students at risk for dropping out are extra counseling, smaller and more personal settings, positive relationships with adults, meaningful educational and transitional goals, and emphasis on living and vocational skills (Lehr, 2004).

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BUDGET
AT RISK (338)
&
IDEA



BUDGET BACKGROUND

- * At-Risk Funds (338) \$4,670,888
 - Students at academic risk are defined as students who are at risk of not graduating from high school because they failed either the English language arts or mathematics portion of the High School Assessment Program on first attempt and who score not met in grades 3 through 9 in reading and mathematics state assessments.
 - * Assistance for these students could take place in the form of reduced class sizes, remediation and academic assistance programs, family parenting and literacy program, adult education remedial programs and/or alternative education programs.
- Maintenance of Effort Funds for IDEA \$18,700,000



AT-RISK FUNDS

* \$400,000 comprehensive remediation

\$1,602,454 freedman, 4k, technology, coordinators

* \$65,000 charter school allocations

\$ \$664,000 current alternative budget

- \$1,300,000 (approx) expansion of alternative program (this plus the existing plus \$275,000 from MS ISS = \$2.2M [AS THIS GOES UP OR DOWN, THE FIGURE BELOW DOES OPPOSITE]
- * \$750,000 (approx) available for carryover and/or flex



	*338	IDEA	
Personnel	\$1,719,990	\$1,022,000	
Hardware/Software	\$385,985	\$?	
Materials and travel	\$54,200	\$100,000	
Professional Development	\$40,200	\$?	
Total	\$2,200,375	\$1,122,000	



If U.S. schools <u>graduated one percent</u> <u>more</u> males from high school every year, the nation could have seen a reduction of crime by 100,000 a year, and save 1.4 billion annually (The Civil Rights Project Report, 2006)

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For every \$1 spent on the prevention and education of potential dropouts, \$9 returned to the state (DeLa Rosa, D., 1998)

+ · · · · · · ·	
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		alternative school and works with the Director of Special Education to in
Administrator	1	coordinating activities at BLC.
Long Term Middle/High School Teachers	4	Serve as both facilitators and direct instructors at long term facility for high school and middle school students in long term suspension.
		Assists and monitors students before school, during lunch, and after school
Classroom Aides	2	as well as assist during regular class time.
Long Term AND Short Term		Serve as both facilitators and direct instructors at long term facility for
Elementary Teachers	2	elementary students in long AND short term suspension.
Alternative Learning		cientary stadents in long 7002 short term suspension.
Professional Development		Coordinates professional development for proctors, alt. school teachers, ger
Facilitator	1	ed. Teachers, special ed. Teachers, etc.
SPED Lead Teachers	3	Train teachers in alternative learning strategies
		Provide educational services to students with special needs at long term
Special Education Teachers	9	facility.
Exploratory Teachers	2	PE and Music or Art Teacher
Preschool Partner Teacher	1	Support Child Development, PALS, and Preschool SPED Programs
Year-Round Program Teachers		6 weeks 5 hours 4 days a week
		Serves at-risk students in the short-term and long-term alternative schools
Therapeutic Counseling		and also coordinates community agencies provide social and emotional
Coordinator	1	support to students and their families.
		Serves at-risk students at BLC; screens students in the general education
Behavioral Coordinator	1	setting; train proctors in behavioral intervention strategies.
		One to provide counseling services for students at BLC - to ensure the distric
		meets IEP requirements; one to serve as a guidance counselor (classes on
School Based Counselor	2	character ed., etc.)
		To provide counseling and instruction in potential career paths (school to
Career (Transition) Specialist	1	work, IGPs, project discovery, coordinate voc. Rehab, etc.)
		Supervise "ISS" in middle schools. Trained in behavioral intervention
Middle School ISS Proctors	11	strategies.
2.5 a fair		One short term proctor for <u>each</u> short term alternative school. Facilitates
Short Term Proctors		APEX, PLATO, and other online learning opportunities.
Year-Round Program Proctors	2	6 weeks 5 hours 4 days a week
Local School Tech Coach	38	Stipends for school based techs to address software/hardware needs.
		Assists and monitors students as they transition back into the regular school
Transition Paraeducator		setting.
Secretary		Serve at BLC
Custodian	2	Provide custodial services at BLC
100 miles		Serve in the general education setting at the high school level to provide
High School Behavioral		social and emotional interventions and community resources to at-risk
Interventionists	5	students and their families
		Oversees the implementation of software for intervention in the general
Ed Tech Coordinator	1	education setting and alternative learning students.
Contracted Services	0	to meet individual needs





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 - Fund 1 (current budget)



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- Web hosting (\$24,000 annually for Area 4 and District Office)
 - Improve communication
 - More tools for teachers
 - Move toward paperless



Community Input Questions, Strengths, Additions, Deletions, Recommendations, etc.

- Index Cards
- Post on Overhead
- Open microphone



Board Input Questions, Strengths, Additions, Deletions, Recommendations, etc.

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HOW TO TELL US MORE!

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THE END!

