

IDEA 19 Embracing real alternative education: From second chance programs or a last chance “soft jail” model emphasizing behavior to proactive academic models emphasizing learning, teaching, and assessment alternatives

“Alternative education [needs] a well-defined place within public schools and...communities. Enrollment in alternative education programs should be an option for students who, for whatever reason, experience difficulty with large, and sometimes impersonal, middle...and high schools. Educators, program developers, teacher trainers, and researchers need to rethink the assumptions we make about alternative education. For too long, professionals have adopted a ‘deficit’ model in examining the needs of children and adolescents who fail in and disrupt traditional school settings. It is time to develop academically rigorous, engaging alternatives.”

~ Leone & Drakeford, “Alternative Education: From a ‘Last Chance’ to a Proactive Model”

“It makes sense that before a chronically disruptive student is placed in a second chance or last chance alternative, they could have a choice to go to a real alternative school.”

~ Anonymous retired IPS alternative school teacher

“Alternative education proved there is no one best way to learn, to teach, to show what you know and can do.”

~ Dr. Bob Barr

“It’s our school and the way we teach that’s alternative, not the student.”

~ Paul Schwarz, Central Park East, NYC

“Learning alternatives for everyone all the time.”

~ Dr. Donald Glines

Resources

Alternative Education: From a "Last Chance" to a Proactive Model

http://www.edjj.org/Publications/list/leone_drakeford-1999.html

Reinventing the Alternative School: From “last chance” juvenile detention to academic alternative

<http://vorcreatex.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/Reinventing-the-Alternative-School-From-last-chance-juvenile-detention-to-academic-alternative.pdf>

Alternative Schools and Pushout: Research and Advocacy Guide: How disciplinary alternative programs feed students into the school to prison pipeline

http://www.nesri.org/sites/default/files/%20DSC_Alternative_Schools_GuideFinalSmall.pdf

Alternative High Schools: Models For the Future?

<http://horizon.unc.edu/projects/HSJ/Knutson.html>

Alternative Education: Exploring Innovations in Learning

<http://www.renniecenter.org/research/AlternativeEducation.pdf>

At-Risk Students at Traditional and Academic Alternative School Settings: Differences in Math and English Performance Indicators

<http://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/EJ903005.pdf>

Real Alternative Schools

Tall Oaks Vocational High School in Bowie, MD grades 11-12

<http://www1.pgcps.org/talloaks/>

OPTIONS Academic Alternative High School, Texarkana, TX grades 9-12

www.txkisd.net/campuses/options.asp

Metropolitan Learning Center, Portland, OR grades K-12

<http://www.pps.k12.or.us/schools/mlc/>

Dave Lehman Alternative Community School, Ithaca, NY grades 7-12

<http://www.ithacacityschools.org/districtpage.cfm?pageid=96>