



**Alternative
Education
& High School
Graduation**

August 17, 2015



AZ Alternative Education Consortium

VISION

College & career (post-secondary education & workplace) ready school completion through accountable alternative education

MISSION

- **To provide alternative education with a forum in which to gather information, conduct research, educate the public, and inform public policy.**

STRATEGIC GOALS

- **Membership Benefits (Communication)**
- **Organizational Development**
- **Educate, Inform & Advocate**



EDUCATE AND INFORM



A Matter of Life and Death!

- Alliance for Excellent Education



“A Matter of Life and Death”

New Study Finds Dropping Out of High School Could Be as Deadly as Smoking

Study quantifies the number of deaths linked to the lack of a high school diploma

Mortality Attributable to Low Levels of Education in the U.S.

<http://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0131809#abstract0>



AZ Alternative Education Consortium



National Alternative Education Association
Developing Potential In All Students

We are the Arizona affiliate of the National Alternative Education Association and identified among State Alternative Education Associations.

http://the-naea.org/NAEA/?page_id=189



Alternative Education

Enhance educational opportunities for youth who are at high risk of Expulsion, Suspension and/or Dropping Out of school.

Across the U.S., alternative and nontraditional education schools, programs, and classrooms serve students who are not succeeding in traditional educational settings.

- National Alternative Education Association



Alternative Learners' Traits

- Underperforming academically
- Learning disabilities
- Emotional or behavioral issues
- Victims of behavioral problems of others
- High risk of potential expulsion, suspension or dropping out
- Need for individualized instruction

National Alternative Education Association



Unique Population for Student Eligibility for Alternative Schools in Arizona

- adjudicated
- dropped out of school & re-engaged
- history of disruptive behavior issues
- poor academic standing
- primary caregivers or are financially responsible for dependents
- wards of the state



Alternative *Education*

- Note the difference between the national definition and Arizona's list for alternative school student eligibility.
- Alternative education policy is a state level decision.
- Some states include 12 or more categories of student eligibility.



**Alternative &
Nontraditional Education -
a Valuable Contribution to
Arizona Society and
Economy**



ADVOCATE



ASBCS

July 13th, 2015 Position Statement

- Specifically, utilize best of 4-7 year cohort graduation rates, similar to the metric used by Arizona Department of Education for Alternative Schools
- Continue flexibility in accepting data about graduation-progress toward graduation from schools providing credit recovery, first generation grads, etc.



Thank You

We appreciate your collaborative interest & support for schooling that leads to Postsecondary Education and Workforce Ready High School Graduation for *all Arizona students.*

