



Alternative School Accountability

March 13, 2017



Update on School Accountability for Alternative Schools

- Alternative Accountability Advisory Group (Alt AAG) updated SBE Ad Hoc Committee on 2-22-17
- SBE approved an extended timeline, Aug. 2017, for alternative school methodology





**Dr. Jennifer Fletcher, ADE
Dr. Amy Schlessman & Emily Britton
on behalf of Alternative AAG**

Alternative School Identification Process



- Schools that wish to be considered as alternative must go through the following process
 1. Submit a **First Time Application** with supporting documentation
 2. **Meet Alternative Status requirements**
 3. All new and converted schools shall be **audited** prior to confirmation of Alt. Status: request for evidence, random sample of student population, and potential on-site visit
 4. **Submit a Recertification Application** each following year and continue to meet Alternative Status criteria

Alternative Schools Criteria



- A school with a **mission statement/charter** that clearly identifies its **purpose is to serve a specific student population that will benefit from an alternative setting**
- The **educational program** and related **student support must align to the mission/charter**
- **Must offer a HS diploma** (if offering secondary instruction)
- School will receive **current year state assessment scores**
- **At least 70% of students meet one of the following criteria:**
 - documented history of disruptive behavioral issues
 - dropped out of school and are now returning
 - poor academic standing (at least 1 year behind)
 - primary caregivers or financially responsible for dependents
 - are adjudicated
 - are wards of the state and in need of an alternative setting

Alternative School Breakdown



Component	Number
FY 14 Alternative Schools	140
FY 15 Alternative Schools	161
FY 16 Alternative Schools	140
FY 16 Number of Credit Recovery Schools	96
FY 16 Number of High Schools	132
FY 16 Number of Elementary Schools	8
Avg. Student Population	90
Meet ELL n count of 20 or more based on FY 16 data	5

A Special Thank You

- **TRADITIONAL AAG** colleagues for their leadership and collaboration
- **AD HOC** for recognizing and valuing Alternative Education in Arizona
- The **SBE** for revision of the model draft **TIMELINE** to ensure that we can 'get it right' for our alternative/AOI schools
- Our 40+ **ALT AAG MEMBERS** from accommodation, district, and charter schools for dedicating their time and expertise to this endeavor

Our Work to Date

- Alt AAG is composed of **40** members from a variety of diverse schools and communities.
- We represent **132** high schools and **8** elementary schools.
- To date, we have spent **15** hours in formal meetings since December designing an AZ Alt model that uses AZ Traditional indicators.
- We have researched Alt models in **13** key states: AR, CA, CO, FL, KY, IL, NC, NY, MA, OK, OR, TX, & DC.

National Collaborations



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Next Steps for ALT & AOI AAG...

- Waiting for the Ad Hoc and SBE to finalize the **TRADITIONAL MODEL** so we can align thoughtfully to it.
- Continue **MEETING REGULARLY** to develop consensus on the alternative methodology that honors the work of our schools and students through quality criteria.
- Continue to **RESEARCH and COLLABORATE** outside of our state to incorporate national best-practices into our work.