Arizona’s Alternative Schools

• 150 alternative schools in FY 17
• 72%, almost three-quarters, are charter schools. (109)
• Must be chartered (mission) to serve specific student population
• Schools recertify every year.
• 20% of ASBCS’s portfolio is alternative schools.
How Students Re-engage or Choose Alternative Schools

- School District Referrals
- Word of Mouth/Other Students
- Detention Centers
- Group Homes
- Organizations Helping Homeless Youth
- Option in Lieu of Expulsion from Another School
- Over-aged and Under-credited
Reasons *Why* Young People Re-engage

- Enrollment Meetings
  - Flexibility
  - Encouragement
  - Setting a Clear Course for Achieving a High School Diploma
- Less Barriers with Option to Get Back on Track
- Enroll Throughout Year & Set a Course from that Point
State Board of Education’s Approved Categories of Student Eligibility for Alternative Schooling

- Adjudicated
- Dropped out of school & now returning
- History of behavioral problems
- Poor academic standing (often overaged & under-credited)
- Primary caregivers
- Wards of the state
Student Quotes

• “This school saved my life.”

• “For the first time in my entire life, I can say I’m proud of myself. I’ve never had that before, and that’s where [alternative charter school] differentiates from every other high school.”

• “Unfortunately, I had a falling out earlier on with school and wound up leaving entirely. … I’m hoping to take my life & turn it into something I will be proud of. My ultimate goal is to solidify my future in law enforcement. This is my dream.”
Student Quotes, continued

- “I started my journey down [charter school’s] ‘alternative path’ and was given the greatest gift...the opportunity to turn my life around. From the first day... I was treated with respect, given personal attention, encouragement to make positive choices and academic support.”

- “Every single person here [alternative charter school] has gone through one or several tragic situations in life where we have to grow up sooner than wanted.”

- “I went through an educational obstacle course to get here today, so it’s almost unreal to me that I am standing before you all today. We climbed mountains to get to this stage.”

Saving Lives through Hope for the Future!
The Faces of Alternative Education

Melissa Arvizu
San Luis, Arizona/Mexico

I'm 19-years-old, and a student at a migrant family in San Luis, Arizona came to the U.S. Every year around a lack of work here in Arizona. My first used to be very poor. My mom, my basically grew up without our dad as needed. I remember we used to those little packed lunches or brochures who worked so hard to get our perm give us a better life.

When I was fourteen, I wanted to di-sisters. But then I got pregnant at age 13 to help me during my pregnancy anything. When I gave birth, I dropped for me daughter. I was still fifteen whe
Each Student Has a Story

- From Bomb Threat to Thriving Student
- Migrant Farm Worker 14 Year Old Mother to Federal Migrant Student Program, PASS, Success Story
- Group Home to Scholarship Recipient
2018 Consortium Meetings

January 19, 2018  Peoria Flex Academy
June 8, 2018     Yavapai Accommodation School District, Prescott
September 21, 2018  TBD in Tucson area
December 7, 2018  Flexible/TBD

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