



Alternative School Stories and Success

February 11, 2019



AZ Alternative Education Consortium

Arizona's Alternative Schools



AZ Alternative Education Consortium

Isabelle's story

I am a 15 year old student that has always had a rough time at school. Ever since I was seven, I have jumped from school to school constantly because of the bullies and the education was not a good fit for me. I have gone to almost every middle school in Yavapai County area.... And then I came here.

Today, I am at such an amazing school that provides me with all the help and education I need. At this school, we don't worry about fitting in because we are all unique in our own ways. The kids don't have to worry about being judged for their troubled past because coming here helps them with a new and fresh start. I am also a student who has been in trouble. **BIG TROUBLE.** At my last school, they told me it would be best to go to this alternative school to get caught up and turn my behavior around. I took them up on that offer, and in the little time I've been here, I have received two student awards and I've nearly caught up on all my credits. I am going to graduate on time.

This alternative school has been helping me get caught up with credits I lost while I was transferring schools. They have provided all the students (including me!) with an online education to even work on at home. The way this alternative school is set up has helped me catch up really quickly with classes I am behind in. Also, the staff here are excellent because there is more one-on-one attention from them.



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Ben's story

My name is Ben Whitson and I am what you would call a troubled youth. I have gotten arrested 5 times since sophomore year. I say this so you can all realize how much this school has helped me. This last time I had gotten into trouble I had to go into a rehab type program, this program just so happened to make us go to Transition school. I was not happy about this at first but my opinion quickly changed when I met Mr. Chad Grendell and Mrs. Evelina Acosta, who were both passionate about the kids and truly cared about them. After my 2 months in the program had ended, I decided to attend school at their other campus called Yavapai County High School. I missed my old school at the time but this decision was a huge step in the right direction for me. I went from not being sure if I would get a diploma because I was behind, to being on track to graduate early. In addition, it has been an extremely good environment for me since I have not gotten into trouble and have stayed sober ever since I started here, which is the longest I have done both of those since 8th grade. I thank all of the teachers and all of the students for this as it is a great achievement for me. This system is in place to help people that are struggling, and kids like me to succeed. Without it, I would most likely be in jail again on a path to prison. Now, I am 1 credit away from graduating and on a path to college. Thank you all for listening.



Joseph's Story

Why Do I Need This School?

Yavapai County High School has completely changed my life. I used to get D's and F's but now I get A's and B's. At my old school, I struggled day in and day out. I would never get good grades. I would have so much trouble just making it through one class period, but now I stay focused all day because this school has inspired me to actually work – failure is not an option.

Before, graduating was never on my mind because I didn't think I was smart enough. My grades put me down. Now, I look at my grades and I'm happy because my life has done a complete 180*. At my old school, I had no inspiration; this school changed me. I can focus on one subject at a time, work on it all day, even, and that has made a huge difference. I come to school every day more and more inspired than the last. Now, I 100% believe in myself that I can have a great education, a great job, and a great life. All of that is possible with an education. Education is a gift; if you throw that gift away, you're throwing away more than just your education. You're throwing away your chance to have a good life.

