

## ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION

Pleasants County Schools offers alternative education programs at Pleasants County Middle School and St. Marys High School to provide academic and social development for disruptive or non-cooperative students at-risk of not succeeding in the traditional school program without positive interventions to address specific needs. The program provides a setting that not only enhances these students' probability of success, but also enhances the education of students in the traditional classroom by removing disruptive influences.

Students may be placed by the Pleasants County Board of Education, Student Assistance Team, or the Individualized Education Planning Team (IEP or Section 504 Team, as appropriate). Students identified with disabilities either through special education eligibility procedures or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act are placed in the alternative education program in compliance with all guidelines set for in the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and Policy 2419.

An Alternative Education Evening Program (AEEP) is offered at St. Marys High School and an Alternative Education Day Program (AEDP) is offered at Pleasants County Middle School. The AEDP operates on the same schedule as the traditional classroom/school. The AEEP operates after-school hours from 4-7PM Monday through Thursday.

### Program Goals

The Alternative Education Program is designed to assist students in:

- Remaining in school;
- Improving attendance;
- Improving academic achievement levels in core academic classes;
- Improving self-concept by experiencing success in social and academic endeavors;
- Improving self-control;
- Improving social functioning with peers and adults;
- Reducing pressures in a more personalized atmosphere;
- Eliminating or substantially reducing academic failure;
- Encouraging parental involvement and commitment in their child's academic and personal growth; and □ Preparing for readmission into the traditional school program.

### Curriculum and Instruction

The core academic program shall be based upon the West Virginia College and Career Ready Standards. Instruction shall be delivered and facilitated by a certified alternative education teacher through the use of computer-based programming and/or traditional classroom materials. Instruction is provided in core academic areas with no provision for lab work. Credits are limited to four per semester in the AEEP.

The overall instructional program shall be:

- Consistent with the students' developmental level;
- Facilitated by materials which are age-appropriate, functionally appropriate, and of high-interest;
- Characterized by individualized pacing to accommodate the entry and exit of students;
- Reflective of high expectations;
- Delivered in a climate conducive to learning;
- Supported by sufficient materials, supplies, and equipment; and
- Support services focusing on self-esteem attendance, appropriate behavior, acceptable social adjustment, personal responsibility, importance and relevance of satisfactory

grades and sound study habits, importance of education, and motivation enhance behavioral outcomes for each individual student, as appropriate. Counseling services are provided by school counselors and/or Westbrook Health Services.

### **Program Progress and Completion**

Each student's progress is reviewed at the end of each nine-weeks grading period. Based on student data and information, the alternative education team, that may include teachers, parents, student, administrators, counselors and/or other appropriate stakeholders, will determine readiness to reenter the traditional classroom. Appropriate transition procedures based on individual student progress and data are put in place to ensure successful reintegration.

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