

5.22—ALTERNATIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS

The Van Buren School District shall have an alternative learning environment (ALE) which shall be part of an intervention program designed to provide guidance, counseling, and academic support to students who are experiencing emotional, social, or academic problems and are determined to need an alternative learning environment.

Each school campus shall have a placement team. The team should consist of at least a school counselor, the ALE director or principal, a parent or legal guardian, and a regular classroom teacher.

Students who are placed in the ALE shall exhibit at least two of the following characteristics:

- Disruptive behavior
- Drop out from school
- Personal or family problems or situations
- Recurring absenteeism

For the purposes of the ALE, personal or family situations are conditions that negatively affect the student's academic and social progress. These may include, but are not limited to:

- Ongoing, persistent lack of attaining proficiency levels in core academic courses
- Physical, emotional, or sexual abuse
- Frequent relocation of residency
- Homelessness
- Inadequate emotional support
- Mental/physical health issues
- Pregnancy
- Single parenting

Once the referral process has begun, a student may not complete an area exception to another school in the Van Buren School District until a decision has been determined on placement in the ALE. If placement in the ALE is determined the student shall attend the ALE.

If a student moves to another school zone within the Van Buren School District during the referral process, the ALE referral process will continue and if placement in the ALE is determined the student shall attend the ALE.

The teachers and administrator of the ALE shall determine exit criteria for students assigned to the district's ALE on which to base the student's return to the regular school program of instruction.

The district's ALE program shall follow class size, staffing, curriculum, and expenditure requirements identified in the ADE Rules Governing the Distribution of Student Special Needs Funding and the Determination of Allowable Expenditure of These Funds.

Students will meet the minimum state diploma requirements.

Legal References: A.C.A. § 6-18-508, 509
 A.C.A. § 6-20-2305(b)(2)

ADE Rules Governing the Distribution of Student Special Needs Funding and
the Determination of Allowable Expenditure of These Funds – 3.01, 3.05, 4.00,
and 8.0

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