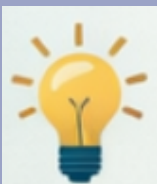


What is Alternative education?



Alternative education schools serve students who require or thrive in an environment other than a traditional academic setting. This population of learners may face challenges in school, home, and their community. Their ability to receive services in a traditional setting may increase vulnerability to school failure.

What is our purpose?



Deliver equitable access to innovative teaching & learning.



Provide opportunities to meet graduation requirements.



Prepare students for post-secondary experiences.



Support participation as productive community members.

Why do Alternative Schools matter?



Provide **safe, supportive** environments tailored to unique needs



Ensure **equitable access** to education for the most vulnerable



Create **pathways** to graduation, careers, and community engagement



Reduce risk of school failure and dropout

Who do we serve?

Alternative schools across the country have specialized missions and use nontraditional methods of instruction. These schools are officially defined by Colorado Revised Statutes (see CRS 22-7-604.5) and serve “a student population in which more than 90% of the students have an individualized education program [...] or meet the definition of a high-risk student”. **High-risk students are defined as students who may be experiencing one or more of the following challenges:**

- Dropped out or are habitually truant
- Were expelled from school
- Have a history of drug or alcohol use
- Are involved in a street gang
- Have experienced child abuse/neglect or in foster care
- Have a parent/guardian in prison
- Have an IEP (Individualized Education Program)
- Have a family history of domestic violence
- Have experienced repeated suspensions
- Are pregnant or parenting
- Are a migrant child
- Are homeless
- Have a history of mental health disorders, behavioral issues, or significant trauma
- Are over-age and under-credited

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Rhode Island Consortium of Alternative Programs