

ACE Academy



Providing Cherokee County Alternative Choices in Education!

<http://www.cherokee.k12.ga.us/Schools/aceacademy/default.aspx>

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I. ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION IN GEORGIA

A. CrossRoads Alternative Program

1. Result of state and federal initiative in the mid-1990s to provide educational setting for disruptive, unruly students.
2. Georgia school districts mandated to provide this setting.
3. Funding was provided and resulted in over 50 schools in state using "CrossRoads" in the name.
4. In early to mid-2000's funding was eliminated and many schools/programs began dropping "CrossRoads" from their name.

B. Alternative Education Program.

1. In 2010 – 2011 Georgia Department of Education replaced the CrossRoads Alternative Program with the Alternative Education Program
2. It was more inclusive, recognizing many options available to schools, districts, and students.
 - a. Attendance recovery – allow students to recover credits lost due to excessive absences.
 - b. Credit recovery – allow students to recover credits lost due to failing grades.
 - c. Credit acceleration – allow students to earn credits quicker than in traditional setting.
 - d. Mastery learning – ensures students understand the content before moving on to next standard.
 - e. Student directed instruction – student sets pace for their learning.
 - f. Textbook and computer based instructional units – allows students to use instructional delivery models they are most comfortable with.
 - g. Night school – allows students to attend classes at night.
 - h. Open campus – flexible scheduling similar to college class scheduling.

II. ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION IN CHEROKEE COUNTY.

A. CrossRoads HS/MS

1. Started in 1996 with staff of 5 (principal, secretary, 3 teachers) and approximately 35 students.
2. Was originally intended only as the disciplinary alternative setting for students under tribunal expulsion.
3. However, within the 1st year, began accepting volunteer students choosing to attend based upon space availability.
4. By SY 10-11, had grown to a staff of 41 supporting an average daily attendance of 225 students, and an average yearly attendance of +400.
 - a. 1/3 of students attending are tribunal expulsion students.

- b. 2/3 of students are volunteers choosing to attend based upon space availability.
- c. Over time it incorporated all the options in the Alternative Education Program except night school and open campus programs.

B. ACE Academy

- 1. As state adopted the Alternative Education Program, it was realized that the Cherokee County CrossRoads HS/MS had long outgrown its name.
- 2. Ad hoc committee review many suggestions, but ACE Academy was recommended and adopted.
- 3. ACE is the acronym for "Alternative Choices in Education".
 - a. Recognizes the options and opportunities available.
 - b. Recognizes that it is the student's choice as to their success.

III. ACE ACADEMY.

A. The program:

- 1. Instructional options.
 - a. Incorporates most of the options (attendance recovery, credit recovery, credit acceleration, mastery learning, student directed learning, textbook/computer based instructional models of delivery).
 - b. Does not include night school and open campus programs.
- 2. Keys to success:
 - a. Must make a conscious "choice"
 - b. Work as fast as you want to, as slow as you need to.
- 3. Progress reports and academic probation
 - a. Monthly instead of quarterly – more timely academic feedback.
 - b. 2 months in a row/3 months in school year = expulsion.
 - c. Incentives – earn back absence days for positive reports.
- 4. Response to Intervention
 - a. Support for those on academic probation
 - b. Weekly goal monitoring sheets that provide weekly reports as to student progress in class/use of time.
- 5. Attendance.
 - a. Every absence is excused absence and every absence counts – except court.
 - b. Earn back days for progress reports, course completions, mid-term and final/EOCT exams, PTA/PASS meetings.
- 6. Tribunals and expulsions.
 - a. Tribunal student under current expulsion – duration at discretion of administrator (2 weeks, 4 weeks, end of 90 day contract, end of semester/school year).
 - b. Volunteer student – take to a tribunal, recommend expulsion for at least a semester and return to ACE Academy as an expelled student.

B. The graduates:

- 1. SY 11-12:
 - a. 55 students graduated
 - b. 39.89 average months enrolled in HS (10 months = 1 school year).
 - c. As short as 15 months, as long as 60 months (special ed student).
- 2. SY 12-13:
 - a. 69 students graduated.
 - b. 39.30 average months enrolled in HS (10 months = 1 school year).
 - c. As short as 18 months, as long as 58 months.

IV. PARTNERSHIP WITH CHEROKEE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF JUVENILE JUSTICE.

A. DJJ Probation Liaison Officer – K. Leonard

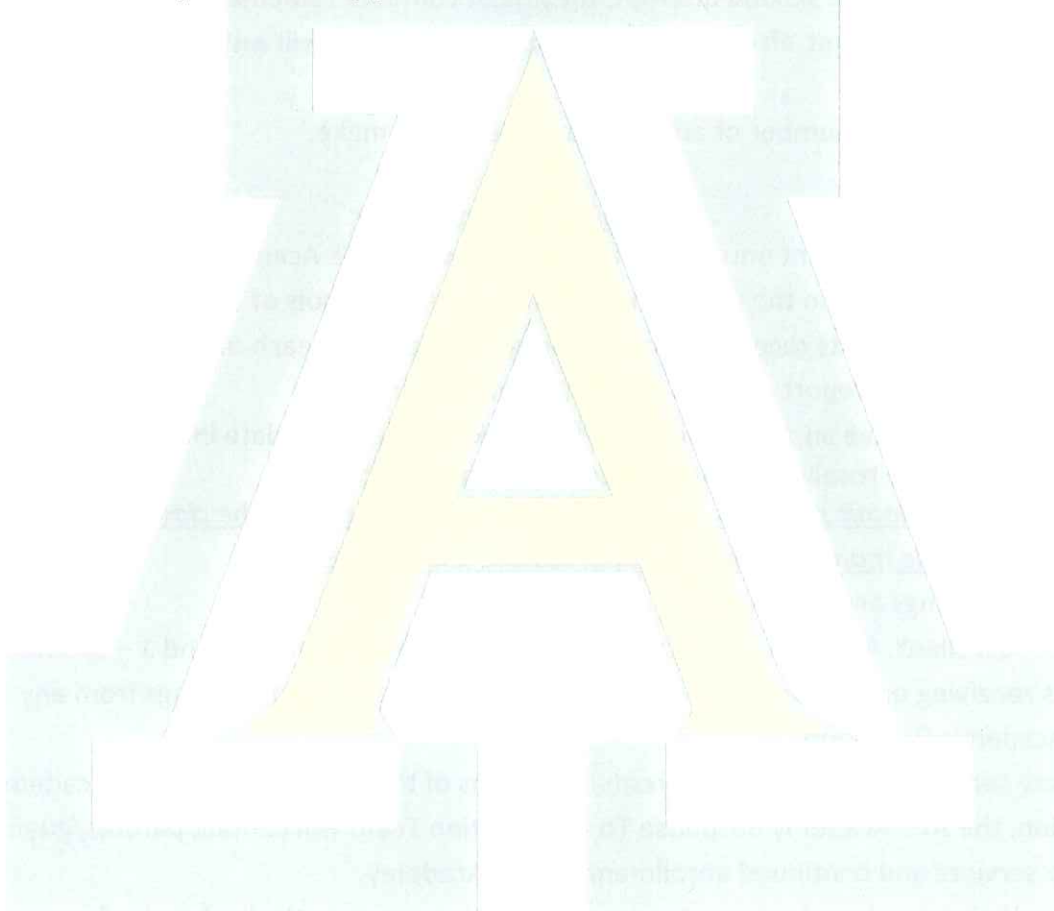
1. Assigned to be point of contact between DJJ and ACE Academy.
2. Weekly visits for at least ½ day to review:
 - a. Grades and class performance.
 - b. Attendance.
 - c. Behavior referrals.
 - d. Heads up and watch out fors.
 - e. What's going on at home.

B. Point of contact with DJJ Court – M. Lebanowski.

1. Advises of pending legal difficulties for students.
2. Provide witness statements and/or testimony as needed.

C. Court Appointed Student Advocate (CASA)

1. Periodic updates to support efforts on behalf of student.



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Curriculum Mastery Policy

The ACE Academy curriculum is based on the philosophy of curriculum mastery. As such, students are not allowed to fail and will not receive failing grades.

1. Students will not move on to the next task or unit until they have achieved a minimum grade of 70% demonstrating mastery of the academic standard.
2. If a student fails a task or unit, they will be given the opportunity to remediate and then retest.
3. If the student is successful on the second attempt, they will receive the grade made on the second attempt.
4. If the student fails on the second attempt, they must continue remediation until they are successful.
5. However, for any attempt after the 2nd attempt, the student will only receive a maximum grade of 70%.
6. There is no limit to the number of attempts a student may make.

Academic Probation Policy

1. Due to the nature of student enrollment and withdrawal in ACE Academy, students do not receive quarterly report cards as in the traditional middle and high schools of the CCSD.
2. All ACE Academy students receive a monthly progress report for each of their six (6) classes.
3. The monthly progress report consists of two (2) evaluations.
 - a. Students receive an academic grade for work completed to date in class.
 - b. Students also receive a performance rating based upon:
 - i. **Academic progress - progress towards completion of the class.**
 - ii. **Time management - the appropriate use of class time.**
4. Performance ratings are as follows:

5 – excellent; 4 – good; 3 – satisfactory; 2 – needs improvement; and 1 – unsatisfactory.
5. Students receiving unsatisfactory or needs improvement performance ratings from any three teachers are on Academic Probation.
6. Letters are sent home advising the parents/guardians of the student's status on Academic Probation. In addition, the ACE Academy Response To Intervention Team will contact parents/guardians to evaluate services and continued enrollment at ACE Academy.
7. Voluntary High School students on Academic Probation two months back to back or any three months during a school year, are tribunaled for violations of CCSD Code of Conduct rules 13B and 13G with the recommendation that the student be expelled.
8. Voluntary Middle School students on Academic Probation two months back to back or any three months during a school year will be allowed to immediately enroll in their home school.
9. Tribunal students on Academic Probation two months back to back or any three months during a school year are expelled and may re-enroll at the discretion of the principal.
10. If students expelled for Academic Probation, upon re-enrolling, are again on Academic Probation, they will be expelled and may re-enroll at the discretion of the principal.

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ATTENDANCE POLICY

1. Students commit themselves to attend ACE Academy for a minimum of **90 days in class**
2. **Students are allowed a maximum of seven (7) absences during that period. All absences count.**
3. **There is no distinction between excused and unexcused absences. All absences count.**
4. Parents/guardians of the students **must contact the Attendance Secretary, Ms. Teresa Warren between 7:45 and 8:45 AM** to report the student coming to school late or absent. Ms. Warren can be contacted at either teresa.warren@cherokee.k12.ga.us or (770) 345-2005.
5. Tardies:
 - a. 3 tardies (**arriving after 1st period bell but before 9:00 AM**) to school equals 1 absence.
 - b. 5 tardies to class will result in 1 day Out of School Suspension.
6. If a student misses any part of their morning or afternoon classes, they will lose at least a ½ day.
7. When a student **exceeds 7 days of absences for any reason** (including Out of School Suspensions), they may be **withdrawn** from ACE Academy.
8. **Voluntary high school students withdrawn due to absences are tribunaled for violations of CCSD Code of Conduct rules 13B and 13G with the recommendation that the student be expelled.**
9. **Voluntary middle school students withdrawn due to absences will be allowed to immediately enroll in their home school.**
10. Tribunal students withdrawn due to absences are expelled and may re-enroll at the discretion of the principal.
11. Students may earn back days to remain under the 7 day absence threshold in the following ways:
 - a. High School Students
 - i. Pass mid-term and final/EOCT exams on 1st attempt.
 - ii. Completing a semester length course.
 - iii. Pass standardized tests: GHSGT and EOCT tests.
 - b. Middle School Students
 - i. Satisfactorily passing quarterly academic benchmark tests.
 - ii. Be present on days scheduled for ITBS and GCRCT tests.
 - c. All Students
 - i. Earn 1, 3, or 6 days for positive Progress Reports (all 3's or better, all 4's or better, all 5's respectively).
 - ii. Attend Saturday school study sessions for a total of 4 hours.
 - iii. Attend the following school sponsored events: Parents Night at ACE Academy, PTSA meetings, and Parent Awareness for School Safety meetings.
12. Each day earned back will offset 1 day of absence.

NOTE: Parents must attend the school sponsored event for student to earn a day.

NOTE: Students will not be allowed to earn back days to get back to or under 7 days absences.

NOTE: Students who sign up for but do not attend Saturday School will lose a day.

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School Rules and “No Tolerance” Statement

1. I have been given a copy of the CCSD Discipline Code and I fully understand its content.
2. I understand that ACE Academy has a “**no tolerance**” policy toward discipline infractions and ANY violation of the student conduct code may result in my permanent expulsion.
3. I WILL show respect and courtesy to fellow students, staff and faculty members, and guests.
4. I WILL follow the directions/instructions of all CCSD administrators, teachers, staff, and bus drivers.
5. I WILL not possess and/or use any type of tobacco, drugs, or alcohol.
6. I WILL not possess any type of knife or weapon as described in the CCSD and Discipline Code.
7. SMART/ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION DEVICES:
 - a. I WILL not **inappropriately use** any type of ECD including, but not limited to: laptops, tablets, cell phones, I-Pads, I-phones, I-Pods, MP3 players, CD players, and/or digital cameras while at **school, on school buses, or school property**.
 - b. **INAPPROPRIATE USE** is use of any type without permission: browsing of any type on any electronic platform, making/receiving a text, making/receiving a phone call, taking/looking at pictures/videos.
 - c. Students may **ONLY** listen to music **LOADED/SAVED** on their devices.
 - d. Students may **NOT** recharge their devices from ACE Academy power sources.
 - e. ACE Academy is not responsible for and **will not investigate** the loss or theft of these devices.
 - f. **The inappropriate use of these items in violation of this rule will result in the confiscation of the device (intact with SIM card and battery in place), TO BE RETURNED ONLY TO A PARENT OR GUARDIAN AFTER THE STUDENT HAS SERVED 1 DAY OF OSS. Staff member observation of student use of these devices is sufficient cause for a discipline referral.**
8. I WILL comply with the CCSD dress code.
9. My person, vehicle, purse, wallet, locker, and/or book bag are subject to searches at any time.
10. All book bags, pocketbooks, backpacks, gym bags, etc. will be kept in my locker.
11. Food or drinks are allowed in the classrooms at teacher discretion.
12. I WILL have materials for work in class at all times (paper, pens, pencils, etc.).
13. I WILL show progress in class and follow the teachers’ instructions at all times. Working at my “own pace” does not mean I have the option of not working at all.
14. I WILL use the teacher’s classroom pass at the teacher’s discretion. The pass is a privilege.
15. I WILL remain in the area designated specifically for bus pick-up/drop-off and not enter the buildings of my home school without the express permission of that school’s principal or his/her designee.
16. I may participate in the extracurricular activities of my home school **ONLY** if I am a volunteer attending ACE Academy.

ACE Academy is a “NO TOLERANCE” school and I must observe all Cherokee County School District, Cherokee County Board of Education, and ACE Academy policies, regulations, and rules.
Failure to do so, will result in my dismissal from ACE Academy.