



STATE OF ALABAMA  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



Thomas R. Bice  
State Superintendent of Education

October 13, 2015

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** City and County Superintendents of Education

**FROM:** Thomas R. Bice *TRB*  
State Superintendent of Education

**RE:** Alternative/Non-Traditional Pathways in Alabama

America's Promise Alliance released two new reports, "Don't Call Them Dropouts" and "Don't Quit On Me," which give a voice to students who leave school early for various reasons. Approximately 20 percent of young people, which equates to nearly 800,000 per year, do not graduate from high school. Although the dropout rate in Alabama has been reduced greatly, we as educators share the responsibility and opportunity for creating the conditions under which all young people have a genuine chance to thrive to be college- and career-prepared. Therefore, Recovery Centers, Family Career Centers, Helping Families Initiatives, On-line Education, Virtual Learning, Restorative Justice Centers (old punitive Alternative Ed programs), Teens as Parents, and Special Academies to address academics as well as behavioral concerns are now becoming common practices.

Classrooms are no longer limited by walls and space or brick and mortar. There are many creative, imaginative, and innovative programs and processes being utilized in Alabama's schools. The Alabama State Department of Education, Prevention and Support Services, would like to identify these non-traditional education programs/processes and assist you in telling your success stories of students who have beat the odds of life with special support.

What are you doing in Alabama to keep students on track to graduate on time and in school? Please submit the attached template with the name of the program/process, local education agency (LEA) contact information, and a brief description to Ms. Ayanna Long at [along@alsde.edu](mailto:along@alsde.edu). An active network of committed educators will also be designed and shared with other LEAs in the state, as well as other states, to view and verify that Alabama has met the challenge by providing innovative pathways for graduating more students.

Thank you for all that you do in support of student success. If additional information is requested, please contact Dr. Kay Atchison Warfield at [kaw@alsde.edu](mailto:kaw@alsde.edu) or Ms. Ayanna Long at [along@alsde.edu](mailto:along@alsde.edu).

TRB/KAW/CT

Attachment

FY16-2005

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**ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION/NON-TRADITIONAL PATHWAYS**

Local Education Agency:	LEA Contact:
	Program Contact: (if different from LEA Contact)
Mailing Address:	E-mail:
Telephone Number:	Circle Category: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• On-line</li><li>• Recovery (drop back in)</li><li>• Restorative Justice (behavior)</li><li>• Other _____</li></ul>

Title/Program:
Brief Description:
Target Audience:
Community Partners: