

Alternative School Program Plan Transition to Homeschool

Howard Alternative Placement Program is designed to meet the needs of at-risk students with a committed faculty and staff and a curriculum that connects the classroom and community. While in the program, students are expected to meet certain criteria, including individual accountability and responsibility and high standards for behavior, attendance, performance, and appearance. As the students work in the program, these characteristics are observed and documented. Discussions, conferences, and evaluations with administration, faculty, staff, students, and parents are held throughout the students' time in the program. Representatives from community services talk to the parents and students during the Parent Meetings that are scheduled each month for students' time at Howard Alternative. Those services include (but are not limited to): the county's mental health service provider (Waccamaw Mental Health), the Department of Social Services, Health Learners, and Family Counseling. Counseling is provided for the students by the school psychologist or county mental health counselor whenever it is indicated. The goal for Howard Alternative Program is to shape behaviors, so all transitions to the homeschool will conclude with students succeeding in the regular classroom environment.

Alternative goals are considered and chosen for a few students whose age, work ethics, academic abilities, interests, behavior, and emotional maturity indicate that the return to their homeschool may not be in the students' best interests. All stakeholders have input into the appropriateness of the alternative goal for the student. Alternative goals may include remaining in the alternative school program for a period longer than the original prescribed time in the same curriculum or with a change in curriculum, change to the adult education program, or change to an optional Transition to Work program offered by the district, or transfer homeschooled for a school that has different support services.

If a student has an Individual Education Plan (I.E.P.), a team meeting is held to complete an I.E.P. that is appropriate for the student to return to the homeschools. The plan will include updated goals and objectives, changes in present levels, accommodations/ modifications/ supplemental services, testing needs, consideration for special factors, progress, and Behavior Intervention Plans if appropriate.

Once the prescribed time for a student is drawing to a close, communication with the parents include the steps they will need to take with the student for the student's return to the homeschool, including obtaining materials and communicating with the homeschools. The staff at Howard Alternative communicates grades and all other necessary information to the homeschools, so an effective and efficient return occurs. If the student is successful academically and behaviorally at the homeschool, the main goal for Howard Alternative Program was met.