



FISD
Alternative Campuses Program Guide
2009 - 2010

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Keeping Every Youth Successful (KEYS) And Student Opportunity Center (SOC)

STATEMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

The FISD Special Programs campuses believe that all children can learn and should have the opportunity to reach their maximum potential. A safe and orderly learning environment is necessary to provide this opportunity. Students who meet district criteria may best be served through placement in an alternative program that provides differentiated instruction to facilitate learning.

The purpose of the FISD Special Programs campuses is to provide identified students with an alternative and innovative instructional environment which helps motivate the student to develop appropriate coping skills. The program is designed to challenge students academically (while on our campuses, students will receive appropriate instruction as designed by their home campus teachers) and socially by using problem solving instructional strategies and a strong behavior management system. The FISD Special Programs campuses have trained professional staff who understand how to handle conflict, crisis, and to provide viable techniques on how to change behaviors.

Kindergarten through twelfth grade students are the target population for the assessment and remediation of behavior patterns that are detrimental to the learning process. We believe this early intervention model could help ensure future success for students in school and in their adult life.

The KEYS programs provide an opportunity for students to develop those skills necessary to meet the expectations of the regular classroom. Weekly ongoing counseling sessions are also a strong component to the KEYS program. The home campus counselor is encouraged to visit on a regular basis as well. In addition to counseling, each student chooses a mentor from their home campus; someone they have a strong connection with, who will also visit regularly. It is our belief, that by keeping the home campus/KEYS connection, students will feel more supported and accountable upon their return.

At the Student Opportunity Center, our goal is to provide a safe and orderly learning environment where all students that enter our programs can learn and have the opportunity to reach their maximum potential. Students, no matter their background or reasons for attending classes at the SOC, are valued as young adults and are treated with respect and care.

The Student Opportunity Center in the Frisco ISD receives and services students in the 9th through 12th grades from all FISD High School campuses. Students whose needs cannot be met on the regular campus, who are struggling academically, or who violate the district student code of conduct are best served through placement in a school offering alternative programs. These programs provide a structured environment and address the students' academic and/or behavior needs. Students are placed at the SOC by their home campuses when it is determined that the students meet the criteria for our alternative school's various programs. It is our goal that students exit their individually tailored programs in step with their home campus programs and with the tools necessary to be successful both academically and behaviorally.

KEEPING EVERY YOUTH SUCCESSFUL (KEYS)

Academic Curriculum

The Academic curriculum will be individualized for students being served in the KEYS program. All elementary academic subjects will be taught. Students will be expected to maintain the same academic standards as those established by the district. The same instructional materials and technology-supported curriculum will be utilized to provide continuity to their learning. KEYS personnel will integrate creative problem solving strategies for developing internal control into the instructional process.

Personnel from the home school may visit the KEYS classroom and discuss their student's behavioral and academic needs with the KEYS instructional staff. These visits also provide a sense of stability and help assure continued concern for the child's well-being.

Social Skills Curriculum

Students with inadequate developmental social skills have great difficulty interacting successfully in school and at home. One of the goals of the KEYS program is to help students learn the social skills necessary to interact appropriately with peers, school personnel, and their families. Throughout the enrollment period, emphasis is placed on learning appropriate social skills including self-management, positive peer relationships, and conflict resolution.

When the student returns to the home school, KEYS personnel will be available to provide support for the classroom teacher. The transition back to the home campus will be coordinated and carefully monitored by the KEYS staff and the personnel from the home campus in order to provide for consistency within the student's program.

In-School Counseling Program

The KEYS in-school counseling program is designed to complement the students' social skills curriculum. The counselor will meet with each student on a regular basis. Meetings may involve students one-on-one, in a group setting and/or classroom setting. In addition to working with students, the school counseling program may include consultation time with parents, other KEYS personnel, and home campus personnel.

KEYS S.T.A.R. Program Students Temporary Academic Recovery

The S.T.A.R. (Students Temporary Academic Recovery) program serves middle and elementary school students who have significant learning gaps and are academically behind. This program provides a small learning environment, individualized instruction, and an opportunity for struggling students to improve lagging skills while also learning on-level curriculum. Within the S.T.A.R. program students temporarily join the Acker campus for academic recovery and return to their home campus after mastering specific educational goals. The S.T.A.R. program strives not only to remediate missing skills, but also to develop students' confidence, limit academic frustration, and enable students to experience success when they return to their home campus.

STUDENT OPPORTUNITY CENTER (SOC)

Accelerated Curriculum Education (ACE) Program

Fourth and fifth year students who have fallen behind in credits and are not scheduled to graduate on time are given an opportunity to enroll in the ACE Program at the Student Opportunity Center to accelerate the earning of credits.

The Campus Intervention Team will review the student and make a recommendation for placement in ACE. The Campus Intervention Team, using district guidelines, will determine the best placement for each student. Students who do not qualify for the ACE program, but who have special or unique circumstances will always be given opportunities to participate. Both the student selected for ACE and his/her parent must attend a Central Intake Meeting at the Student Opportunity Center prior to starting the program.

ACE Students have an opportunity to work at their own pace through rigorous on-line curriculum programs with the support of certified staff. When students have completed the required courses for graduation, they exit the program and are able to continue their education through trade programs, college, and the military. Celebrations are held for the students finishing the program to allow a time for family, SOC staff, district staff, and mentors to congratulate the students for their hard work.

Student Opportunity Center Night School Program

The purpose of the Student Opportunity Center Night School is to provide an educational opportunity outside of the normal school day for students to master the curriculum of incomplete and failed courses. The program utilizes a web-based educational program using on-line curriculum and certified teachers. Frisco ISD classroom teachers facilitate the learning experience of each student in the night school program. The goals for the Student Opportunity Night School program are as follows:

- Each student will achieve at or above the anticipated achievement standard.
- Each student will build critical thinking skills.
- Each student will successfully complete the Student Opportunity Center Night School program in a successful and timely fashion.

Mentoring Program

All students attending programs at the Student Opportunity Center have the opportunity to be assigned a mentor to work with them. Volunteers from the district, as well as, community and business people are matched with students according to their interest. These mentors visit the students on a regular basis and become an important role-model in each of the student's lives.

(All mentors are required to have a criminal background check before being paired with a student.)

Teen-age Parenting Program (TAPP)

Teen parents may be referred to the ACE Program to work toward the completion of courses for graduation. These students have the choice of attending TAPP, a one-period class held for expectant students to learn about pre-natal care, safety issues, nutrition, child birth, and parenting skills. Students will earn .5 credits for this class through API Curriculum. The district PEP teacher meets with the students during this class on a regular basis to help them with doctor visits, day care, and insurance.

Grade Acceleration Program (GAP)

GAP is for above-age 8th grader that did not pass a portion of the 8th grade TAKS and/or did not pass the core classes during their 8th grade year. Students are placed in the program through the Grade Placement Committee on their home campus for the fall semester. The students placed in GAP will attend classes at the Student Opportunity Center. The student's academic progress will be evaluated at the end of the first semester to determine if promotion to the 9th grade is possible at that time or if the student will remain at the SOC for the second semester.

Students in the program are taught by certified teachers and will have the opportunity to earn high school credit in English I, Algebra I, Biology, World Geography, and PE. Students, also, attend a study skills class, along with classes to enhance 8th grade TAKS Reading and Math skills.

Overage High School Program

This program is for students who are 18 years old or older and want to enroll in Frisco ISD and do not have the credits to graduate within a reasonable timeframe. Before enrolling these students at the high school, they will be evaluated by staff at the Student Opportunity Center. Students accepted into this program will not be enrolled in Frisco ISD, but will have the opportunity to work on skills needed to earn a GED and will be supported in making decisions about the next level of their education, such as attending Collin College or a trade school.

Positive Academic Change (PAC) Program

The PAC Program is the Frisco ISD's high school discipline alternative education program. Students are placed in the PAC Program for both mandatory and discretionary placements as described in the FISD "Student Code of Conduct". Placement recommendations are made by the home campus. Discretionary placements are decided by the Campus Intervention Team at the home campus. A Central Intake Meeting at the Student Opportunity Center is required for placement. The parent, student, a representative from the home campus, and an SOC administrator must be present at the meeting.

The PAC Program curriculum is two-fold in nature. Because most placements to the PAC Program are for behavior concerns, students are instructed on positive behavior and social skills in all classes. While behavior is a focus, academics are still a priority. All core teachers are certified in the field that they teach and use the district curriculum, along with the home campus teachers' lesson plans; to develop lessons that will ensure that the students' academics are met and transitions back to their home campuses will be seamless. While keeping students current in their classes, the PAC teachers also utilize this time to help remediate students struggling with their academics.

GED (General Equivalency Development) Program

Frisco ISD offers the GED test twice a month to residents of Frisco and the surrounding areas. The GED measures the outcome of a high school education. There are five batteries of tests, one in each of these subjects: mathematics, science, social studies, writing skills, and reading. Adaptations to testing conditions are permitted for adults with disabilities.

Our mission is to provide quality testing services for eligible candidates so that they may have the opportunity to earn high school equivalency credentials. We strive to ensure the credibility and acceptance of Texas certificates by maintaining the integrity of the testing program.

In order to be eligible for testing, an applicant must:

- Be 18 years of age
- Be a resident of the state
- Not be enrolled in any school
- Not be a high school graduate

In addition to the testing, we offer GED Preparation Classes to adults living in the Frisco School District. These classes are held on Monday and Wednesday nights from 6:00-9:00. These classes are free of charge.

Zero Hour Credit Recovery

The Zero Hour Credit Recovery Program was designed to provide those students who did not have room in their schedule or did not meet the district guidelines for the daytime Credit Recovery Program. The students still have an opportunity to recovery credits they have been unsuccessful in completing within a regular classroom setting before or after school. Since the program is offered outside of the regular school day students are charged a fee for every 1/2 credit earned. The district's Program Coordinator monitors the students progress in the program and also keeps track of the student's current grades, attendance and any difficulties she or he may be having during the semester they are enrolled in the Credit Recovery Program. All students in the Credit Recovery Program will have an opportunity to visit with the Program Coordinator who will discuss topics such as, goal setting, decision making, organizational and study skills. The Credit Recovery Program utilizes online computer program that allows the students flexibility to work on their courses from any computer with Internet access. Students interested in this option will need to visit with their school counselor for current fees and class offerings.

Daytime Credit Recovery

This Daytime Credit Recovery Program is designed as an opportunity for students to recover the credits they have been unsuccessful in completing within a regular classroom setting. Each course offered through Credit Recovery has a required weekly test goal that each student must maintain. Students enrolled in the daytime program are required to recover a minimum of 1 (two ½ credits) credits their first semester of Credit Recovery to be considered for enrollment in the following semester. All assignments may be completed either on campus or at home. All tests required to complete the course must be completed on the school campus with a Credit Recovery instructor. The district's Program Coordinator monitors the students progress in the program and also keeps track of the student's current grades, attendance and any difficulties she or he may be having during the semester they are enrolled in the Credit Recovery Program. All students in the Credit Recovery will have an opportunity to visit with the Program Coordinator who will discuss topics such as, goal setting, decision making, organizational and study skills. The Credit Recovery Program utilizes online computer program that allows the students flexibility to work on their courses from any computer with Internet access.

Students who would like to be considered for the Credit Recovery Program must follow the district guidelines in the academic handbook and be referred by their school Counselor.

At Risk Groups

Ninth grade students needing additional support on their campus are referred to the District At-Risk counselor by the student's high school counselor. This individual will meet with the students during the semester and monitor their current grades, attendance and other issues or difficulties the student may be experiences. The At-Risk counselor will also discuss topics, such as, goal setting, decision making, organizational and student skills with the student.