



Tennessee Department of Education
Division of Federal Programs and Oversight
Andrew Johnson Tower
710 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, TN 37243

Annual Alternative Education Report (2020–21 School Year)

Danny Bounds, Executive Secretary, Tennessee Department of Education
Karen Ball, Council Member
Bryan Douglas, Council Member
Joe Matheny, Council Member
Jay Stetzel, Council Member
Lisa Woods, Council Member
Momodou Keita, Council Member
Kay Davenport, Council Member
Josiah Holland, Council Member
Tammy Hayes, Council Member
Makeda Porter, Council Member

Governor's Advisory Council for Alternative Education January 2022

Printable report also available on the department's website at
<https://www.tn.gov/education/instruction/alternative-education.html>.

Table of Contents

Introduction	3
Survey Results and Findings.....	3
COVID-19 Impact.....	6
Appendix A: Annual Alternative Education Survey.....	7
Appendix B: LEA Alternative Education Coordinators	12
Appendix C: Sample Comments from School LEAs from the 2020-2021 School Year.....	20
Appendix D: History of Alternative Education in Tennessee	23

Introduction

T.C.A. § 49-6-3402 requires that at least one alternative school or program be established for local education agencies (LEAs) serving students in grades 7–12 who have been suspended or expelled from the regular school program and also allows LEAs to create alternative schools or programs for grades 1–6. T.C.A. § 49-6-3404 establishes an advisory council that shall advise, assist, and consult on alternative education. The advisory council is required to make an annual report to the governor, the General Assembly, the commissioner of education, and the State Board of Education on the state of alternative education in Tennessee. For a comprehensive history of alternative education in Tennessee, please refer to [Appendix D](#). The report presented here meets the legislative requirement set forth.

To obtain the needed data, the Governor’s Advisory Council for Alternative Education, in conjunction with the Tennessee Department of Education, developed the Annual Alternative Education Survey. A copy of the survey is included in [Appendix A](#). The Governor’s Advisory Council for Alternative Education defines an alternative school/program as, “A non-traditional academic program or school designed to meet the student’s educational, behavioral, and social needs.” Operating under this definition, LEAs reported on various aspects of their alternative education programming. The broad categories of information collected included student participation numbers, reasons students were assigned to alternative programs, program elements, and staffing. Information presented in this report summarizes surveys provided by Tennessee LEAs. In addition to collecting data on current programming at the local level, LEAs were asked a series of questions related to their current needs in the field. Those major findings are included in this report.

Questions regarding this report may be directed to Danny Bounds, Federal Programs Ombudsman, at the department via email at Danny.Bounds@tn.gov or by phone (615) 917-3465.

Survey Results and Findings

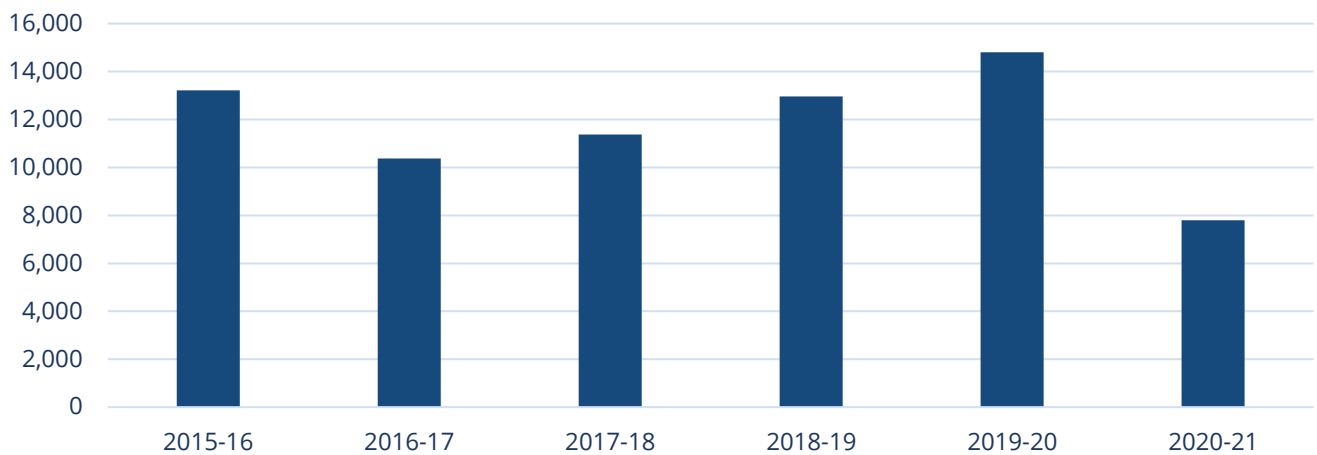
The annual alternative education survey requires each LEA to identify an alternative education coordinator, thereby providing a framework for networking, collaboration, training, and technical assistance. The designee for every LEA is listed in [Appendix B](#). The survey asks LEAs to report by grade bands (i.e., K–5, 6–8, and 9–12) whether they have an alternative school or program, the number of classrooms, the number of students served, and the average length of placement. The information in Table 1 below reflects survey responses from LEAs. The total number of students served in an alternative setting for 2020-21, as reported in the LEA surveys, was **7,799**, a **47.3 percent** decrease from 2019–20. Please see Figure 1 for trend data.

Table 1: 2020-21 Alternative Education Survey Summary

	K-12
Number of alternative schools	254
Number of alternative programs	151
Number of classrooms	607
Number of certified staff	795
Number of non-certified staff	387

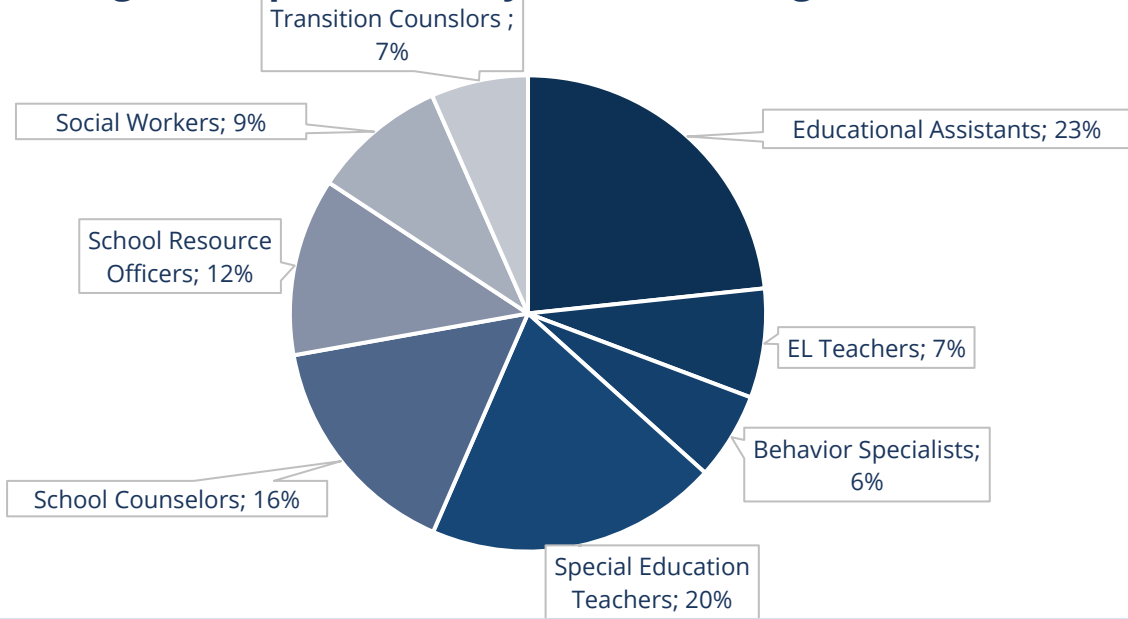
	K-5	6-8	9-12
Number of students served	265	2,155	5,379
Average length of placement	17 days	46 days	53 days

Figure 1: Total Number of Students Served in Alternative Settings Yearly Trends



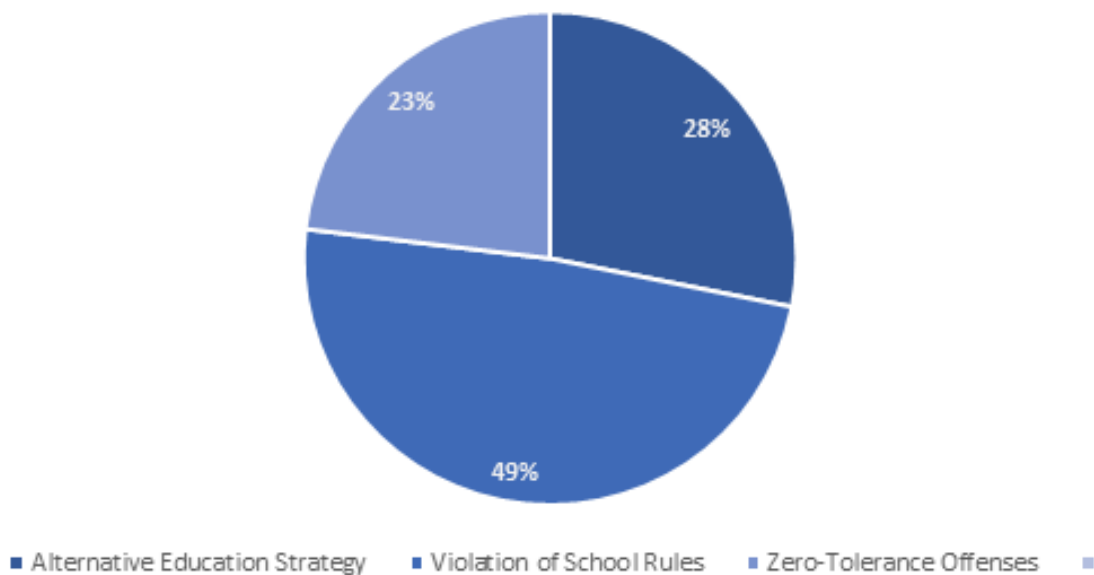
LEAs were asked to distinguish between the various types of professionals providing services to students in the alternative school or program. Statewide, there were **795** certified teachers serving students. Of those certified teachers, **265** were certified special education teachers, and **99** were certified English as a second language (ESL) teachers. A total of **209** school counselors were also working with alternative education students. Other groups providing alternative education services included **387** non-certified staff in which **311** were education assistants, **161** were school resource officers (SROs), **122** were social workers, **88** were transition counselors, and **79** were behavior specialists. Please see Figure 2.

Figure 2: Special Faculty/Staff Providing Services



LEAs were asked to rate the primary reason for student participation in the alternative school or program. The number one reason for attendance in the K-12 grade span was the *violation of school rules*. Additionally, the second greatest reason for attendance in the grade spans of K-12 was the *need for an alternative education strategy*.

Figure 3: Reasons for the Number of Students Placed in an Alternative Setting



Alternative education programs throughout the state vary in the types of services they provide, the number of students served, and their overall purpose and mission. Alternative schools and programs may be housed in a designated, separate alternative school building, which may or may not have a school number, or may be self-contained within a traditional school. Alternative services are geared toward students who have been suspended or expelled, as well as students who have dropped out of school and are re-entering the education system. Some alternative schools and programs have a mixture of elements making them a hybrid school serving various alternative programming purposes.

The *Alternative Education Survey* gave LEAs an opportunity to discuss the general needs of their program(s) and/or school(s). Sample comments from LEAs are found in [Appendix C](#). Comments shed light on the needs of alternative education programs across the state. The needs most commonly reported were increased mental health supports and additional funding for alternative education.

COVID-19 Impact

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, LEAs shifted between virtual or in-person learning in 2020-21 school year. Although the majority of the LEAs in the state of Tennessee were able to provide in-person learning for their students, a significant number of students continued to utilize virtual learning options. Further, according to data provided by LEAs through the state's Education Information System (EIS), 50 percent fewer students were involved in one or more disciplinary actions in 2020-21. As a result of continued virtual instruction and the associated decrease in discipline incidents in schools, the data for this report showed a significant decline in participation in alternative education programs across the state.

Appendix A: Annual Alternative Education Survey

Annual Alternative Education Survey

As Required by Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-6-3404



Alternative Education as defined by the Advisory Council for Alternative Education:

"A nontraditional academic program designed to meet the student's educational, behavioral and social needs."

T.C.A. § 49-6-3402 mandates "at least one (1) alternative school shall be established and available for students in grades seven through twelve (7-12) who have been suspended or expelled."

T.C.A. § 49-6-3404 also requires that the Department of Education submit a report annually on the status of alternative education in Tennessee. In order to gain a better perspective, the following survey was developed. The information provided to the department will be reported to the Governor, both education committees of the General Assembly, and the State Board of Education. Please complete the following survey and email it to the address listed below.

<i>Local Education Agency</i>	<i>Date:</i>
<i>LEA Alternative Education Coordinator:</i>	<i>Email Address:</i>
<i>Phone Number:</i>	<i>Fax:</i>
<i>Address:</i>	<i>City and Zip Code:</i>
<i>Person Completing Report (if different from above):</i>	<i>Phone Number:</i>

ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL(S) OR PROGRAM(S) THAT OPERATED DURING THE SCHOOL YEAR 2020-21:

	Yes	No
Do you serve students from other LEAs?		

	Name(s) of LEAs
Which LEAs do you serve?	

(For each alternative school/program, please identify the principal or program coordinator and provide an email address and phone number for each. Please do not include ISS.)

Alternative School/ Program Name	Principal/ Program Coordinator	Email Address of Principal/Program Coordinator	Phone Number for School/Program

PARTICIPATION (TOTAL FOR ALL SCHOOLS/PROGRAMS IN YOUR LEA):

	K-12
Number of alternative school(s)*	
Number of alternative education program(s)**	
Total number of classroom(s) serving alternative education students	
* A facility dedicated solely to alternative education	
** An alternative education program within a school	

	K-5	6-8	9-12
Total number of students served during the 2020-21 school year			
Number of students placed more than once during the 2020-21 school year			
LEA's total capacity (seats)			
Average length of placement (stay) in an alternative setting (number in days)			

	K-12
Number of certificated staff working in an alternative school/program	
Number of non-certificated staff assigned to an alternative education setting	

	Yes	No
An alternative education advisory committee has been established at the LEA level		
Attendance at the alternative school is mandatory		
Transportation is provided to the alternative school/program		

PRIMARY REASON FOR STUDENT ASSIGNMENT (RANK 1, 2, 3, AND 4):

	K-12
Number of students placed in an alternative setting for zero tolerance offenses during the 2020-21 school year.	
Number of students placed in an alternative setting for violation of school rules during the 2020-21 school year.	
Number of students placed in an alternative setting due to a need for an alternative education strategy during the 2020-21 school year.	
Please list any other reasons for placement into an alternative school setting during the 2020-21 school year.	
Other (please describe below)	

ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL/PROGRAM ELEMENTS (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY):

Please choose Yes or No for the following elements in your program(s)/school(s).	Yes	No
Afterschool or other extended day programming		
Individual behavior plans		
Character education		
Credit recovery		
Distance learning		
Dropout prevention strategies		
Individual and/or family counseling		
Individual learner plans		
Juvenile court partnership		
Life skills		
Positive Behavior Intervention Supports (PBIS)		
Mental health partnership		
Service learning		
Student drug testing		
Technology based instruction		
Transitions services (a formal plan)*		
Use of level system that encourages appropriate behavior		
Restorative practices		
College and career ready act		
Other (please describe in space given)		
*Mandated requirement under T.C.A. §49-6-3402		

NUMBER OF SPECIAL FACULTY/STAFF SERVING ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL/PROGRAM

	K-12
ELL Teachers	
School Counselors	
Special Education Teachers	
Social Workers	
School Resource Officers	
Teaching Assistants	
Transition Counselor	
Behavior Specialist	
Other (please describe in space given)	

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS:

What technical assistance opportunities would help you as an alternative educator?
What is the greatest challenge facing your alternative education school(s)/program(s)?
Additional comments/feedback that would be appropriate for the alternative education report to the General Assembly.

Appendix B: LEA Alternative Education Coordinators

SCHOOL LEA	ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL/ PROGRAM NAME	PRINCIPAL/ PROGRAM COORDINATOR	E-MAIL ADDRESS
Achievement School LEA	Pathways in Education - Frayser	James Bacchus, II	jbacchusii@pathwaysedu.org
Alcoa City	Pershing Academy of Learning	Jason Adams	jadams@alcoaschools.net
Alcoa City	Spark Program at AHS	Lisa Frazier	lfrazier@alcoaschools.net
Alcoa City	AMS HELP Program	Richard Gamble	rgamble@alcoaschools.net
Alvin C. York Institute	Fentress County Alternative School	Diana Hannahan	diana.hannahan@fentressboe.com
Anderson County	Connect Academy	Teresa Taylor	ttaylor@acs.ac
Anderson County	Innovation Academy	Dr. Tricia Jones	djones@acs.ac
Anderson County	Clinch River Community School	Darren Leach	dleach@acs.ac
Anderson County	Middle School ACCOLA	Kim Towe	ktowe@acs.ac
Anderson County	AC 21st Century Program	Kim Towe	ktowe@acs.ac
Arlington Municipal	Arlington Alternative Education Program	Felicia Turner	felicia.turner@acsk-12.org
Athens City	Athens Pathway Schools	Justin Wallace	jwallace@athensk8.net
Bartlett Municipal	Bartlett Bridges	Zoe Anne Bozeman	zbozeman@bartlettschools.org
Bedford County	Bedford County Learning Academy	Julie Elliott	elliottj@bedfordk12tn.net
Benton County	Benton County Alternative Program	Dr. Randy Shannon	randy.shannon@bcos.org
Bledsoe County	Bledsoe County Alternative Schools	Mark Mosley	mmosley@bledsoecountyschools.org
Blount County	STAGE Academy	Justin Ridge	justin.ridge@blountk12.org
Blount County	AIM Academy	Justin Ridge	justin.ridge@blountk12.org
Bradford SSD	Bradford Alternative School	Shane Paschall	paschalls2@bradfordspecial.com
Bradley County	Goal Academy At-Risk Learner Program	Kyle Pge	kpage@bradleyschools.org
Bristol City	BTCS Alternative Program	Dave Collins	collinsd@btcs.org
Bristol City	Elementary Learning Center	Kelli Campbell	campbellk1@btcs.org
Campbell County	Homer A. Rutherford Learning Academy	Harold Sanders	harold.sanders@ccpstn.net

SCHOOL LEA	ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL/ PROGRAM NAME	PRINCIPAL/ PROGRAM COORDINATOR	E-MAIL ADDRESS
Campbell County	J.L. "Sarge" Collins Learning Academy	Donna Singley	donna.singley@ccpstn.net
Cannon County	Lion Academy Alternative School	Courtney Nichols	courtney.nichols@ccstn.net
Carroll County	Carroll County Alternative School	Stephanie Pearson	spearson@carrollschools.com
Carter County	Siam Learning Center	Mike Ensor	mikeensor@carterk12.net
Cheatham County	Cheatham Academy	Andrea N. Bringard, Ed. D	andrea.bringard@ccstn.org
Chester County	North Chester Alternative School	Bobby Helton	heltonb2@120cc.org
Claiborne County	Claiborne Alternative Program	Jeff Stephenson	jeff.stephenson@claibornecsd.org
Clarksville-Montgomery County	CMCSS Alternative School	Dr. Kim Siegears	kim.siegears@cmcss.net
Clay County	Clay County Alternative School	Alicia Dailey	daileya@clayedu.com
Cleveland City	Alternative Placement	Jacqueline Lane	jlane@clevelandschools.org
Cleveland City	Raider Blue Academy	Jacqueline Lane	jlane@clevelandschools.org
Clinton City	Behavior/Diagnostic Program	Suzanne Oliver	olivers@clintonschools.org
Cocke County	Cocke County Alternative Program (GAP)	Bryan Douglas	douglasb@cocke.k12.tn.us
Cocke County	Cocke County Adult HS	Bryan Douglas	douglasb@cocke.k12.tn.us
Cocke County	The Learning Center	Bryan Douglas	douglasb@cocke.k12.tn.us
Cocke County	Graduation Alt Program (GAP)	Bryan Douglas	douglasb@cocke.k12.tn.us
Coffee County	Coffee County Koss Center	Jeff Johnson	johnsonj@k12coffee.net
Collierville Municipal	IMPACT Program	Veronica Norfleet	vnorfleet@colliervilleschools.org
Crockett County	Crockett County Alternative School	Kent Scott	kent.scott@crockettschools.net
Cumberland County	Cumberland County Alternative School- Middle & High	Stephanie Barnes	barness5@ccschools.k12tn.net
Dayton City	Dayton City Alternative School	Chris Tallent	tallentch@daytoncity.net
Decatur County	Decatur Co Riverside High	Hugh Smith	hugh.smith@decaturschools.org
DeKalb County	Alternative Learning Center	Brad Hendrix	bradhendrix@dekalbschools.net
Dickson County	New Directions Academy	Rhiannon Mason	rmason@dcstn.org
Dyersburg City	College Street Campus	Lyn Taylor	ltaylor@dyersburgcityschools.org

SCHOOL LEA	ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL/ PROGRAM NAME	PRINCIPAL/ PROGRAM COORDINATOR	E-MAIL ADDRESS
Elizabethton City	Elizabethton City Alternative Program	Jon Minton	jon.minton@ecschools.net
Etowah City	Etowah City School	Cheryle Cooper	cooperc6@k12tn.net
Fayette County	Jefferson Innovative Learning	Marcus Stokes	marcus.stokes@fcsk12.net
Fayetteville City	FCS Alternative School	Eric Jones	jonese@fcsboe.org
Fentress County	Fentress County Alternative School	Diana Hannahan	diana.hannahan@fentressboe.com
Franklin County	Franklin County Alternative School	Jeff Sons	jeff.sons@fcstn.net
Germantown Municipal	Alternative Ed. Program (The Point/ GMSD)	Kathryn Jones Lorrie Tingle	kathryn.jones@gmsdk12.org lorrie.tingle@gmsdk12.org
Gibson County SSD	Gibson Co High School	Michael Wickersham	wickersham@gcssd.org
Gibson County SSD	S Gibson Co High School	Scott Rohovit	rohovits@gcssd.org
Giles County	Giles County Alternative School	Don Thomas	dthomas@gcboe.us
Giles County	Richland School	Micah Landers	mlanders@gcboe.us
Grainger County	Grainger County Alternative School	Kip Combs	kcombs@gcs123.net
Greene County	Thomas Howard McNeese/ABIC	Mike Garland	mike.garland@gcstn.org
Greeneville City	Greeneville City Alternative Learning Program	Fred Dobson	dobsonf@gcschoools.net
Greeneville City	Elementary Behavior and Transition Program	Tracie Deaton	deatont@gcschoools.net
Grundy County	Grundy County Alternative School	Charlie Westmoreland	cwestmoreland@grundyk12.com
Hamblen County	Miller Boyd Alternative School	Randy Greene	greener@hcboe.net
Hamilton County	Washington	Lesa Johnson	johnson_L@hcde.org
Hamilton County	ELL	Karol Stroud	stroud_k@hcde.org
Hamilton County	Hearing Impaired	Sarah Samarin	samarin_s@hcde.org
Hamilton County	Hearing Impaired	Deborah Smith	smith_deborah@hcde.org
Hamilton County	Transition Classroom	Riquel Burton	burton_riquel@hcde.org
Hancock County	The Alternative School	Janie Cole	janie.cole@hcsk12.com
Hardeman County	Hardeman County Learning Center	Thomas Polk	polkt1@hcsedu.org

SCHOOL LEA	ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL/ PROGRAM NAME	PRINCIPAL/ PROGRAM COORDINATOR	E-MAIL ADDRESS
Hardin County	Hardin County Alternative	Jason Dennis	jason.dennis@hctnschools.com
Hawkins County	Pathways Alternative School	Sharon Lindsey	sharon.lindsey@hck12.net
Haywood County	Sunny Hill Innovative Learning Center	Stephen May	stephen.may@hcsk12.net
Henderson County	Henderson County Juvenile Academy	Dennis McDaniel	mcdaniel.dennis@hcschoolstn.org
Henry County	Henry County Alternative Learning Center	Michael Poteete	poteetem@henryk12.net
Hickman County	Hickman County Alternative School	Becky Malugin	becky.malugin@hickmank12.org
Hollow Rock Bruceton SSD (Carroll Co)	Carroll County Board of Education Alternative School	Dennis Stokes	dstokes@carrollschools.com
Houston County	Houston County Alternative School	Linda McDonough	mcdonough15@houstonk12tn.net
Humboldt City	Humboldt Alternative School	Lillian Shelton	lillian.Shelton@hcsvikings.org
Humphreys County	Humphreys County Alternative School	Emily Ballard	ballarde@hcss.org
Jackson County	Alternative Learning Center	Jason Brown	jasonbrown@jacksoncoschools.com
Jackson- Madison County	Parkview Learning Center	Janet Gore	jdgore@jmcss.org
Jefferson County	Jefferson Academy	Garry Jett	gjett@jcboe.net
Johnson City	Science Hill HS Toppr Academy	Melanie Riden-Bacon	ridenbaconm@jcschools.org
Johnson County	Extended Service Center	Leon Henley	lhenley@jocoed.net
Kingsport City	Cora Cox Academy	Julie Malone	jmalone@k12k.com
Knox County	Richard Yoakley School	Michelle Clayton	michelle.clayton@knoxschools.org
Knox County	Ridgedale Alternative School	Kristi Phillips	kristi.phillips@knoxschools.org
Knox County *	KCG Night Alternative Program	Seth Smith	seth.smith@knoxschools.org
Lake County	Lake County Alternative	David ayers	david.ayers@lcfalcons.net
Lauderdale County	Alternative Learning Academy	Billie Young	byoung@mail.lced.net
Lawrence County	Lawrence County Achievement Academy	Evan White	evan.white@lcss.us
Lebanon SSD	Alternative School Program (ASP)	Wallace Brummett	wallace.brummett@lssd.org
Lenoir City	Alternative School (9-12)	Charles Orr	corr@lenoircityschools.net

SCHOOL LEA	ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL/ PROGRAM NAME	PRINCIPAL/ PROGRAM COORDINATOR	E-MAIL ADDRESS
Lenoir City	SPED Alternative School (9-12)	Charles Orr	corr@lenoircityschools.net
Lenoir City	Restorative Learning Center (4-8)	Brandee Hoglund	bhoglund@lenoircityschools.net
Lenoir City	Behavior Alternative	Brandee Hoglund	bhoglund@lenoircityschools.net
Lewis County	Lewis County Alternative School	Scott Duncan	sduncan@lewisk12.org
Lexington City	See Carroll County	Patrick Steele	psteele@carroll.tn.org
Lincoln County	Falcon Achievement Academy	Amy Clemons	aclemons@lcdoe.org
Loudon County	Loudon County Alternative School	Cheri Parrish	parrishc@loudoncounty.org
Macon County	Macon County Alternative Learning Center	Stephanie Meador	smeador@maconcountyschools.org
Macon County	Macon County High School	Stephanie Meador	smeador@maconcountyschools.org
Manchester City	WMS Flight Program	Julie Miller	jmiller7@k12mcs.net
Marion County	Marion County Alternative School	Mack Reeves	mreeves@mctns.net
Marshall County	Alternative Learning Center	Morgan Sanders	morgan.sanders@mcstn.net
Maryville City	Maryville Academy	Kelly Forester	kelly.forester@maryville-schools.org
Maury County	Horace O. Porter School	Dedra Dawson	dawsond@mauryk12.org
McKenzie SSD	See Carroll County		
McMinn County	AIM (Achieve, Improve, Mature)	J. Preston Moser	pmoser@mcminnschools.com
McNairy County	McNairy County Alternative School	Stephanie Brown	browns@mcnairy.org
Meigs County	Meigs High Alternative School	John Grissom	johngrissom@meigsboe.net
Metro/Nashville Public	Bass Alternative Learning Center	Henry Johnson	Henry.Johnson@mnps.org
Metro/Nashville Public	Johnson Alternative Learning Center	Myron Franklin	Myron.Franklin@mnps.org
Metro/Nashville Public	Park Ave. Elementary School	Deltina Braden Short	deltina.braden@mnps.org
Metro/Nashville Public	MNPS Middle School ALC	Bruce Jackson	Bruce.Jackson@mnps.org
Metro/Nashville Public	Glenn Elementary ALC	Dr. Dexter Adams	Dexter.Adams@mnps.org
Milan SSD	Milan Alternative School Program	Kevin Ellison	ellisonk@milanssd.org
Millington Municipal	Millington Municipal Alternative Program	Jill Church	jchurch@millingtonschools.org

SCHOOL LEA	ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL/ PROGRAM NAME	PRINCIPAL/ PROGRAM COORDINATOR	E-MAIL ADDRESS
Monroe County	Monroe County	Chris Bowers	bowersc@monroe.k12.tn.us
Moore County	Raider Academy	Danny Mooney	danny.mooney@moorecountyschools.net
Morgan County	MCCTC (9-12)	Dan Shoemaker	shoemakerd@mcsed.et
Morgan County	Coalfield	Matt Murphy	murphym@mcsed.net
Morgan County	Coalfield School	Matt Murphy	murphym@mcsed.net
Morgan County	Central High School	Aaron Jones	jonesa@mcsed.net
Oak Ridge City	Fresh Start	Christopher Scott	cscott@ortn.edu
Oak Ridge City	Secret City Academy	Christopher Scott	cscott@ortn.edu
Obion County	Obion County Central High School	Barry Kendall	jkendall2@ocboe.com
Obion County	South Fulton Middle/High School	Kimberly Jackson	kjackson@ocboe.com
Oneida SSD	Oneida Indian Academy	Heath Sexton	hsexton@oneidaschools.org
Overton County	Reach Academy	Danny McCoin	dmccoin@oc-sd.com
Paris SSD	Intervention Classroom	Chip Gray	chip.gray@parisssd.org
Paris SSD	Intervention Classroom	Jason Scarbrough	jason.scarbrough@parisssd.org
Perry County	Perry County Alternative School	Michael Rhodes	mrhodes@perrycountyschools.us
Pickett County	Pickett County High School	Darlene Capps	darlene.capps@pickettk12.net
Polk County	South Fulton High School	Cheryl Ogg	oggc@k12tn.net
Putnam County	White Plans Academy	Joe Matheney	matheneyj1@pcsstn.com
Rhea County	Crossroads Academy	Rusty Ray	rayr@rheacounty.org
Richard SSD	Richard Hardy Alternative Program	Beth Webb	bwebb@richardhardy.org
Roane County	Midtown Education Center	Chris Johnson	cbjohnson@roaneschools.com
Robertson County	Robertson County Alternative Program	Teno Geritano	Teno.geritano@rcstn.net
Rogersville City	Rogersville City Alternative Program	Rhonda Winstead	winsteadr@rcschool.net
Rutherford County	Daniel McKee Alternative School	Diana Brown	brownd@rcschools.net
Rutherford County	Smyrna West Alternative School	Judy Sides	sidesj@rcschools.net
Scott County	Transitional Learning Center/Real School Tier II	Melissa Rector	melissa.rector@scottcounty.net

SCHOOL LEA	ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL/ PROGRAM NAME	PRINCIPAL/ PROGRAM COORDINATOR	E-MAIL ADDRESS
Sequatchie County	Sequatchie County Alternative School	Darrin A. Long	along@sequatchie.k12.tn.us
Sevier County	Greenbriar Academy	Scott Sutton	scottsutton@sevier.org
Sevier County	Parkway Academy	Dr. Jeff Moore	jeffmoore@sevier.org
Sevier County*	Hardin High School	Scott Sutton	scottsutton@sevier.org
Shelby County	Adolescent Parenting Program	Melita N. Thomas	thomasmn@scsk12.org
Shelby County	Project S.T.A.N.D.	Dr. Tarol Clements	clementstp@scsk12.org
Shelby County	Project G.R.A.D.	Rochelle Griffin	griffinrj@scsk12.org
Shelby County	G.W. Carver College and Career Academy	Dr. James Suggs	suggsj@scsk12.org
Shelby County	Gordon Achievement Academy	Leviticus Pointer	pointerls@scsk12.org
Shelby County	Hope Academy	Roger Jones	jonesrf@scsk12.org
Shelby County	Ida B. Wells Academy	Shadrich Moore	mooresl@scsk12.org
Shelby County	MCS Prep - Northeast	Kenneth Dickerson	dickersonka@scsk12.org
Shelby County	MCS Prep - Northwest	Samuel Bachelor	bachelorsl@scsk12.org
Shelby County	Destination Learning Academy	Jacques Hall	halljh@scsk12.org
Shelby County	Airways Achievement Academy	Wanda Cooper	copperwh@scsk12.org
Shelby County	Newcomers International Center	Gabreila Toro	torog@scsk12.org
Shelby County	Pursuit Center	Toria Brown	browntt3@scsk12.org
Shelby County	W.I.N.	Kemba Edwards	edwardska@scsk12.org
Shelby County	Bartlett Elementary Intervention Program	Page Watson	pwatson@bartlettschools.org
Shelby County	Collierville Elementary Intervention Program	Louise Claney	lclaney@colliervilleschools.org
Shelby County	Lowrance Elementary Intervention Program	Kelvin Bates	kbates@scsk12.org
Shelby County Schools	Shelby County Schools	Valerie Matthews	Matthewsvm@scsk12.org
Shelby County-Millington	Millington Municipal	Jill Church	jchurch@millingtonschools.org
Smith County	Smith County Alternative School	Scott Murray	scott.murray@smithcoedu.net
Stewart County	Alternative Learning Center	Jeannie Nolen	jeannienolen@stewartcountyschools.org
Sullivan County	Sullivan North High School	Steve Dixon	steve.dixon@sullivank12.net

SCHOOL LEA	ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL/ PROGRAM NAME	PRINCIPAL/ PROGRAM COORDINATOR	E-MAIL ADDRESS
Sullivan County	Sullivan Central High School	Tammy Mays	tammy.mays@sullivank12.net
Sullivan County	Sullivan East High School	Tiffany Curtis	tiffany.curtis@sullivank12.net
Sumner County	R. T. Fisher Alternative School	David Hallman	david.hallman@sumnerschools.org
Sweetwater City	Sweetwater City Schools	Wendy Duncan	wendy.duncan@scstn.net
Tipton County	Alternative Learning Center	Steve Zurhellen	szurhellen@tipton-county.com
Trenton SSD	Trenton SSD Alternative School	Jason Driggers	jason.driggers@trentonssd.org
Trousdale County	Trousdale County Alternative Learning Center	J Brim McCall	jmccall@tcschools.org
Tullahoma City	Tullahoma Alternative School	Karen Browning	karen.browning@tcsedu.net
Unicoi County	Siam Learning Center	Mike Ensor	mikeensor@k12tn.net
Union County	Union Academy	Victor H. Price II	pricev@ucps.org
Union County	Elem/Middle Alternative Center	Laura Jones	laura.jones@ucps.org
Van Buren County	Van Buren County Schools Alternative Program	Kurt Powers	powersk@k12tn.net
Warren County	Warren Academy	Franklin Fisher	fisherf@warrenschoools.com
Washington County	Midway Alternative Learning Program	James. E. Murphy, Jr.	murphyj@wcde.org
Wayne County	Wayne County Alternative Education Program	Heather Warren	heather.warren@waynetn.net
Weakley County	Weakley County Alternative School	Joyce Hale	joyce.hale@wस्क12tn.net
West Carroll SSD	See Carroll County		
White County	White County Alternative School/ Warrior Academy	Farrah Griffith (6-8); Greg Wilson (9-12); Bryan Haley	farrah.griffith@whitecoschools.net ; greg.wilson@whitecoschools.net ; bryan.haley@whitecoschools.net
Williamson County	Williamson County Schools ALC	Josiah Holland	josiah.holland@wcs.edu
Wilson County	Barry Tatum Academy	Shaun Caven	cavens@wcschools.com

Appendix C: Sample Comments from LEAs from the 2020-21 School Year

LEAs were asked to name the greatest challenge facing their alternative education school/program for the Tennessee General Assembly. Below are a sample of comments from LEAs. The responses shed light on the challenges these schools/programs face in meeting the needs of students in an alternative setting. The primary need is related to lack of appropriate staffing, lack of funding, and mental health support.

What is the greatest challenge facing your alternative school/program?

- *"The need for additional buildings and space."*
- *"We have had some staff that has been here a long time and we are working to make changes to better serve." students and families instead of being such a different experience from the base schools."*
- *"Students and parents "owning" the offense."*
- *"The social and emotional support that students need."*
- *"The two greatest issues are funding and flexibility. Money is needed to improve technology."*
- *"Supplies and Materials: Our teachers do not have interactive smart boards or touch screen teaching devices. Most of them are still dependent on overhead projectors or make shift projectors."*
- *"Flexibility. Not having state approved flexibility to serve students creatively and based on their individual needs. T.C.A. mandates a 6.5 hour day for alternative school students. However, many non-IEP students with severe behavioral issues and legal issues need a more individualized plan such as an abbreviated day or the ability to provide virtual instruction. The ability to provide creative solutions for students with extensive needs is a must. Cookie cutter approaches and mandates do not work with alternative students. I understand that the mandated time is tied to BEP funding. Maybe rules need to change to allow BEP full funding and only mandate a 3.5 hour day for alternative school students?"*
- *"We have lost space that we need for private meetings for students and or parents. This makes it extremely difficult to do our job correctly."*
- *"Student's disrespectful behaviors are often an issue in the Intervention Program. However, we have restaffed for the coming year with a teacher that is an experienced school counselor and are hoping to revise the program to offer more of a therapeutic setting for the students to address these issues."*
- *"The addition of a social worker on staff for the school would be very beneficial to providing services for the families of our students."*
- *"K-8 can be a challenged when you may have a wide gap between ages of the students."*
- *"Lack of support for Mental Health and DCS."*

- *"Over coming (sic) the trauma the students have gone through."*
- *"Having school administrators try other alternatives before placing into the alternative setting; we began restorative practices training with principals and counselors but had to stop the trainings due to COVID; implementing behavior plans and/or contracts with students."*
- *"Parent ability to support their children."*
- *"Students wanting to attend here vs. their home school. Which causes difficulty with capacity. Adequate community mental health resources."*
- *"Greatest challenge is meeting the needs of all students in alternative programs who are at different grade levels."*
- *"Students dealing with substance abuse."*
- *"The lack of addiction counseling."*
- *"The lack of full-time social worker, mental health specialist, certified core content teachers"*
- *"Separating K-5 students from 6-8 students."*
- *"Having students from middle school and high school in the same environment."*
- *"The teacher turnover rate"*
- *"Space availability for both programs; meeting needs of SPED/504 students with current staff availability at each school; lack of support for students with severe behavior and mental health issues"*
- *"A generation of parents that have children that literally want to invest no energy or attention in providing guidance for their children. Parents that are less on top of things than some of the children we serve. An overwhelming number of at-risk children being funneled into education for education to address the issue when the issue started before the children were school age and is a societal issue not an educational issue."*
- *"We developed our plan last year prior to the pandemic and we had to forgo some of the plans we made due to shifting needs around to support pandemic based needs. With three small schools, we had planned to allow our assigned teacher to support students in a different way upon their return to their zoned schools - we adjusted this plan due to the pandemic and restrictions. We look forward to implementing more of our original plan in the coming year."*
- *"The biggest challenge is incorporating character education and SEL. These students need strategies to cope with daily life. There is not always time in the day especially for high school to incorporate these lessons. It would be very beneficial to have a social worker and a behavior specialist within our school to assist with these goals."*
- *"Communication breakdowns between schools of origin concerning attendance and grades. We always make it work but there can be a lack of consistency."*

- *"Due to being a small district and lack of funding, our greatest challenge is that we have to place students in grades 7 & 8 in this alternative setting. Ideally, having the funding to have a separate setting/program for this would be beneficial."*
- *"Transportation to and from alternative school."*
- *"Increasing tech support for in-site instruction."*
- *"Enforcing stricter school rules (dress code, etc.) verses a regular school setting."*
- *"Time and community/parental support. This demographic needs the most help and is seen as the most in need, but also as the last to get help. We always need more money for technology and supports. We can't run this type of education program without everyone understanding it takes more adults than students and more time than we have. These programs look and run different. Mental health is one of our greatest challenges. If we could put a health clinic in our building, we could help so many of these students."*
- *"Traumatized children. Dysfunctional families. Economic and social disparity."*
- *"Maintaining a balance between students there for just a few days and those that are there for longer periods. They can be quite different with very different needs."*
- *Students placed in the alternative education program for non-punitive reasons.*
- *"A program designed to address SEL challenges can serve standard, honors and AP students."*
- *"Alternative school students sacrifice the focused attention and specialized behavioral self-management guidance they deserve and require to transition back into the general population."*
- *"If the goal is graduation, a 'one size fits all' model becomes an equity issue."*
- *"For the current school year, 20-21, our greatest challenge was students who had been remanded and were virtual due to covid."*
- *"Diversity of ages of students, abilities, and special needs of students."*

Appendix D: History of Alternative Education in Tennessee

According to the comptroller's report on alternative education titled *Tennessee's Alternative Schools*, one of the first alternative schools in our state originated in Dickson County in the late 1970s ([Comptroller of the Treasury, 2005, p. 2](#)). Former Juvenile Judge William D. Field, Sr. identified a true need for alternatives to student expulsion or suspension from school (p. 2). In 1984, the General Assembly passed a bill authorizing the establishment of alternative schools for those who were continually having disciplinary problems in their traditional school environment (p. 8). The legislature soon amended that bill in 1986 to *require* an alternative school for students in grades 7–12 in each LEA ([T.C.A. § 49-6-3402](#)).

The Education Improvement Act (EIA) was passed by the Tennessee General Assembly in 1992. This legislation mandated that any LEA serving students in grades 7–12 have at least one alternative education program ([Comptroller of the Treasury, 2005 p. 3](#)). The state legislature later authorized LEAs to create alternative programs for grades 1–6. The General Assembly also passed legislation that prevented students from graduating from an alternative school ([p. 8](#)).

In 1996, the General Assembly authorized the Tennessee Department of Education to establish a pilot alternative school program, one in each grand division (Comptroller of the Treasury, 2005, p. 8). The state legislature also mandated that the State Board of Education provide a curriculum for alternative schools focused on reforming students. In response, the board released *Alternative School Program Standards* in 2000 ([pp. 8-9](#)). In 2004, the Senate passed [Joint Resolution 746](#) that required the Office of Education Accountability of the Comptroller's Office to conduct a study of alternative schools in Tennessee. That report was released in April 2005.

More recently (2006), the General Assembly amended [T.C.A. § 49-6-3404](#) to require the establishment of an advisory council, referred to as the Governor's Advisory Council for Alternative Education. The advisory council is charged with the following responsibilities:

1. Consider any issue, problem, or matter related to alternative education presented to it by the governor, the commissioner, or the State Board of Education, and give advice thereon.
2. Study proposed plans for alternative education programs or curricula to determine if the plans or curricula should be adopted.
3. Study alternative education programs or curricula implemented in Tennessee school systems to determine the effectiveness of the programs or curricula, and alternative education

programs or curricula implemented in other states to determine if the programs or curricula should be adopted in Tennessee schools.

4. Consider rules of governance of alternative schools, and make recommendations concerning rules of governance.
5. Make an annual report to the governor, the education committees of the Senate and the House of Representatives, the commissioner of education and the State Board of Education on the status of alternative education in Tennessee.

In 2007, Public Chapter Number 517 mandated a transition plan for students entering and leaving an alternative education setting and establishes greater accountability measures to include monitoring academic and behavioral progress of students. Public Chapter Number 211 required that the Advisory Council for Alternative Education study issues relating to the establishment of pilot alternative school programs. Finally, [T.C.A. § 49-6-3402](#) required the Tennessee Department of Education to create a pilot project for the 2007-2008 school year in Davidson County.

With the release of the first annual [Alternative Education Report](#) in January 2008, the council acknowledged the need to examine the following question, “What do we really mean by alternative education?” Due to the complexity of alternative education in our state, the council proposed that the State Board of Education adopt a much broader definition that encompassed all alternative education programs in Tennessee. The council recommended that the board adopt a new, more contemporary definition of alternative education. The council proposed that the following definition of alternative education be adopted: **“A nontraditional academic program designed to meet the student's educational, behavioral, and social needs.”**

In August of 2008, the Governor’s Advisory Council for Alternative Education in conjunction with the State Board of Education released [Alternative Education Program Standards](#). The model standards address the following broad categories: mission and environment, governance, transitional planning, support services, parent and community engagement, staffing and professional development, individualized learner plans, life skills, curriculum and instruction, student assessment, and monitoring and program assessment. The standards replaced the previously adopted *Alternative School Program Standards* from 2000.

In February of 2009, the advisory council released *A Feasibility Study Related to the Establishment of Alternative Programs in Tennessee* with specific recommendations on how to drive quality by enriching funds for alternative education. Additionally, in February of 2009, the council hosted the first annual Student Discipline and Alternative Education Institute. Over 300 educators attended the first institute.

In October 2009, the council joined with the National Alternative Education Association (NAEA) on the first ever southeastern regional summit on alternative education. At this conference, the council explored best practice, national trends, and allowed alternative educators an opportunity to collaborate with other practitioners outside of the state. The first summit was held in Rogers, Arkansas.

The council also published an executive brief in February 2010 entitled *Promoting High Quality Alternative Education: An Update from the Advisory Council*. In the brief, the council set forth several legislative recommendations/priorities which include the following: redefine alternative education, establish an *Exemplary Practices in Alternative Education Award*, investigate ways to enrich funding, and create a state-level position to support alternative teachers, students, and parents.