


Louisiana Believes

**Alternative Education Study Group
Spring 2017**




Focus on Alternative Education

- LDOE seeks to improve school climate and the educational services in alternative schools and programs
- LDOE convened a study group in March 2017 of 40 stakeholders for input and policy recommendations
- Policy recommendations will be submitted to BESE August 2017



Alternative Education Study Group Charge

1. Conduct a strategic assessment of current practice and policy, including identification of the gap between current practice and national best policy and practice
2. Develop a state action plan, including policy recommendations to LA Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) and LDOE



Alternative Education Study Group Charge

3. Assist LDOE in identification of support services and programs available and necessary to the success of alternative education schools, programs, teachers, and students
4. Assist in the development of partnerships and alliances with stakeholders to expand and enhance the overall effectiveness of alternative education

Practical Goals

Step 1

Assess current practice

Step 2

Identify gap between current practice and aspirational practice

Step 3

Develop a comprehensive plan and policy recommendations for LDOE and BESE on improvements to alternative education

Voices from the Field

Please identify the population of students served at your school or program. Select all categories that apply.

- Students with behavioral problems 93%
- Students with academic problems 45%
- At risk students 60%
- Students unable to benefit from the traditional classroom setting 56%
- Students that have dropped out of the traditional setting 31%
- Students with habitual truancy issues 40.9%
- Students who are parenting or pregnant 21%
- Overage, under credited students 39%
- Other 10.6%

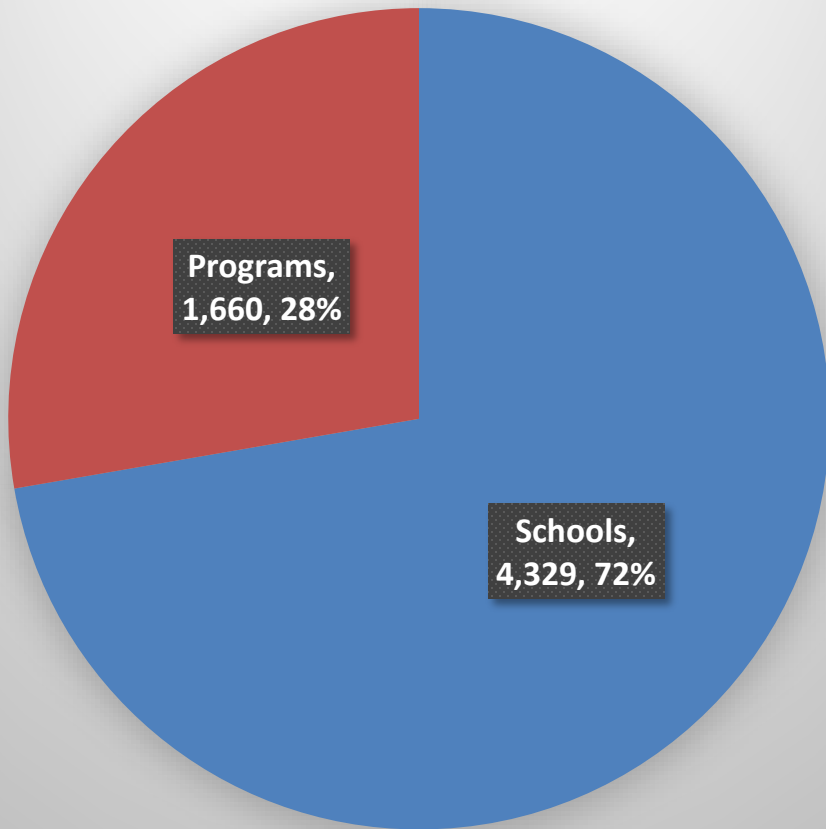


Overlap of Mission and Population

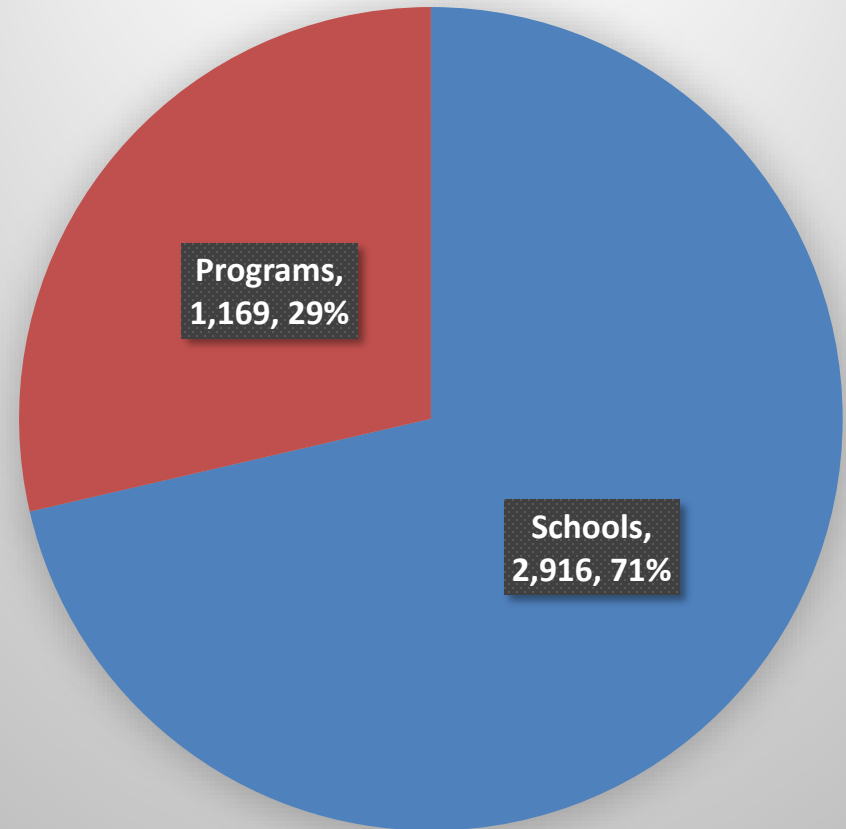
- Approximately 4,500-5,000 students are in alternative sites across Louisiana
- The majority of students in alternative schools/programs are there due to a disciplinary referral (i.e. Suspension or Expulsion)
- How and who Louisiana disciplines determines student population at alternative sites

2014-2016 Enrollment in Alternative Schools and Programs

2014-2015

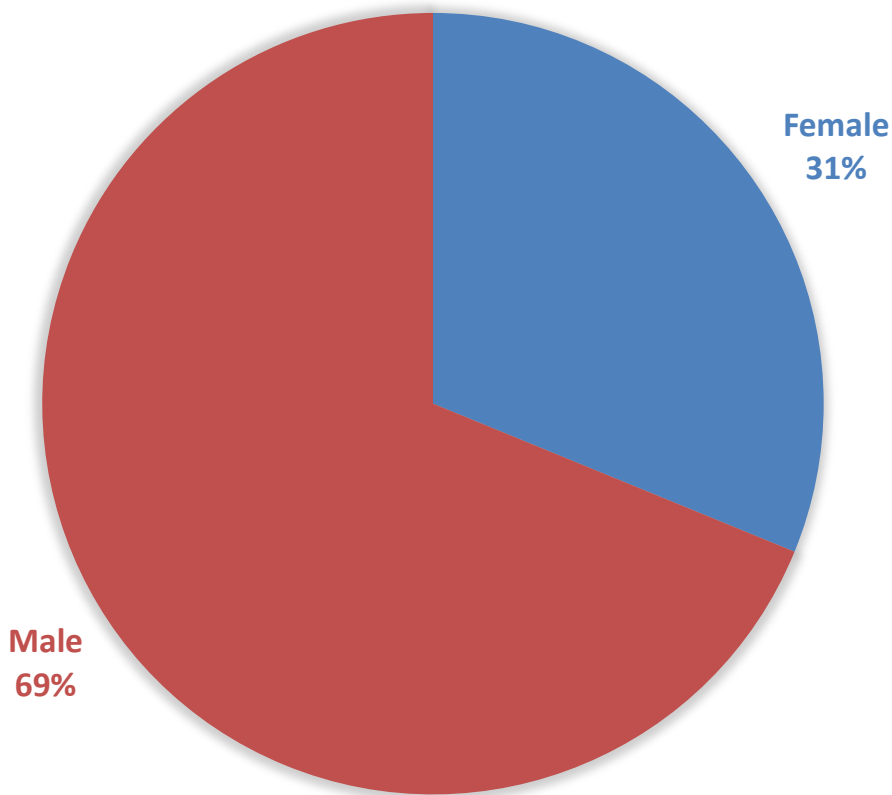


2015-2016

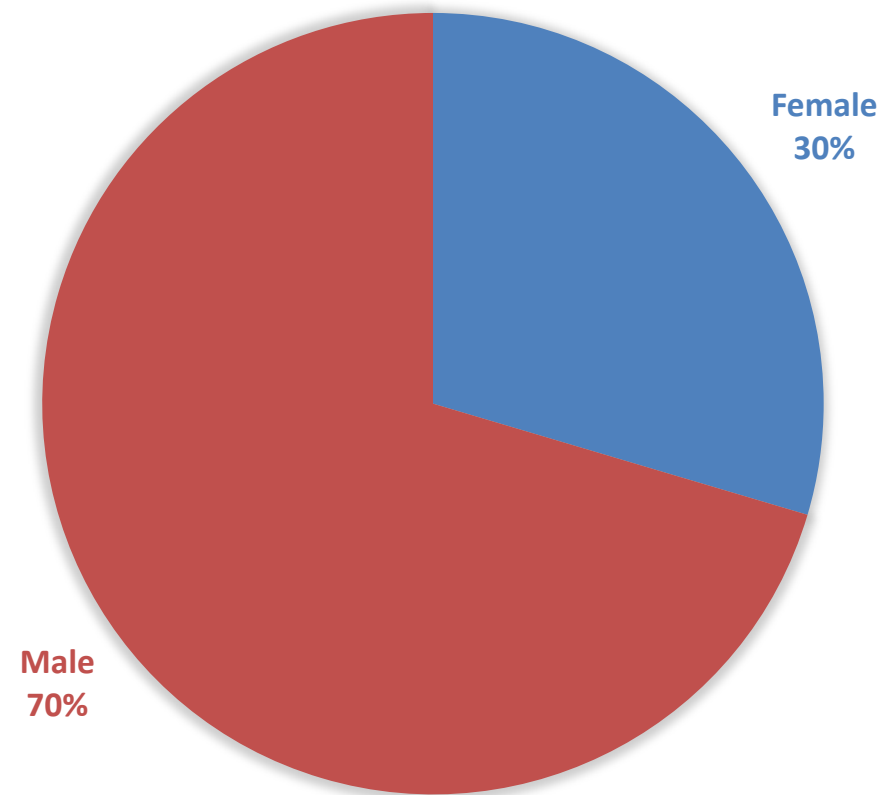


Gender in Alternative Schools

2014-2015

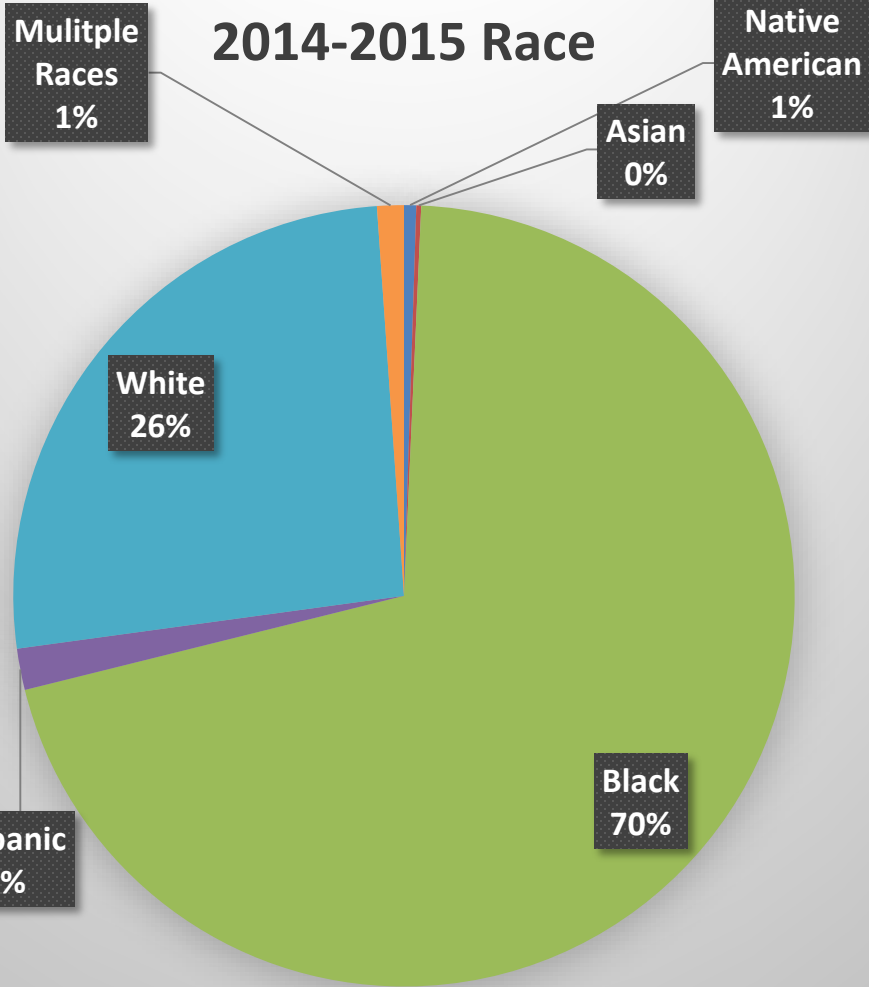


2015-2016

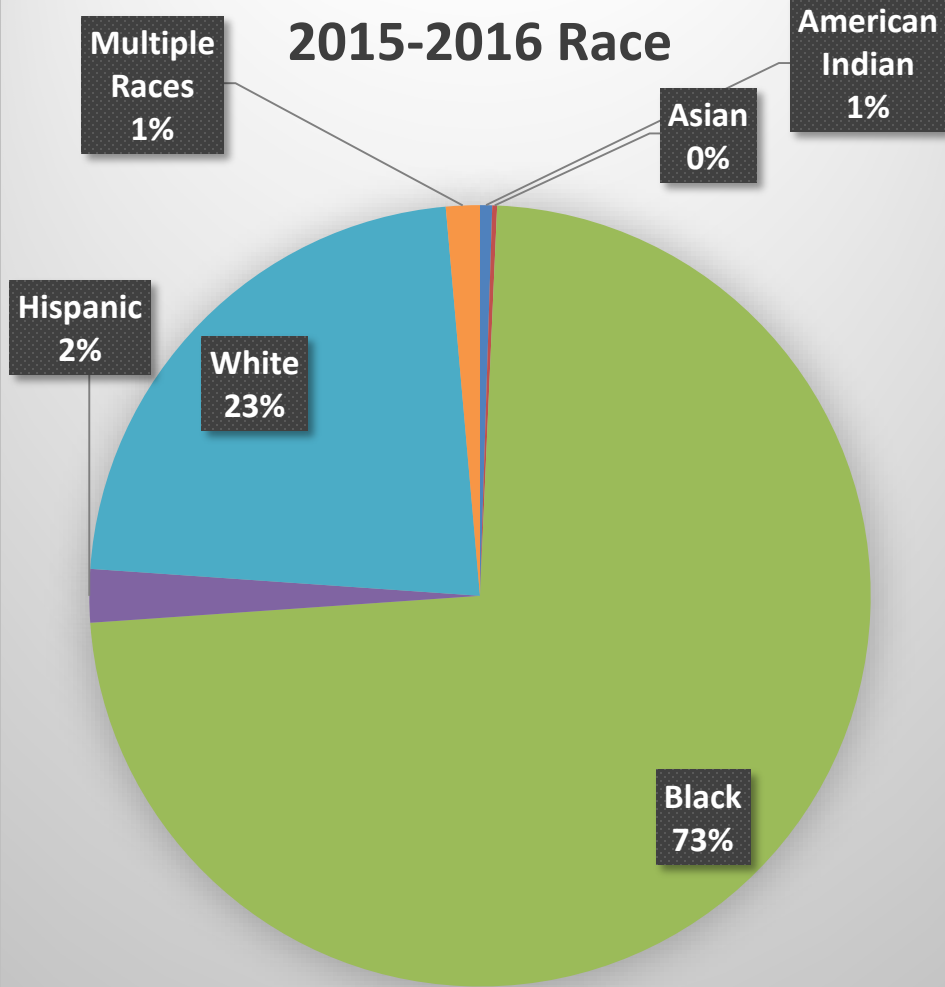


Race in Alternative Schools

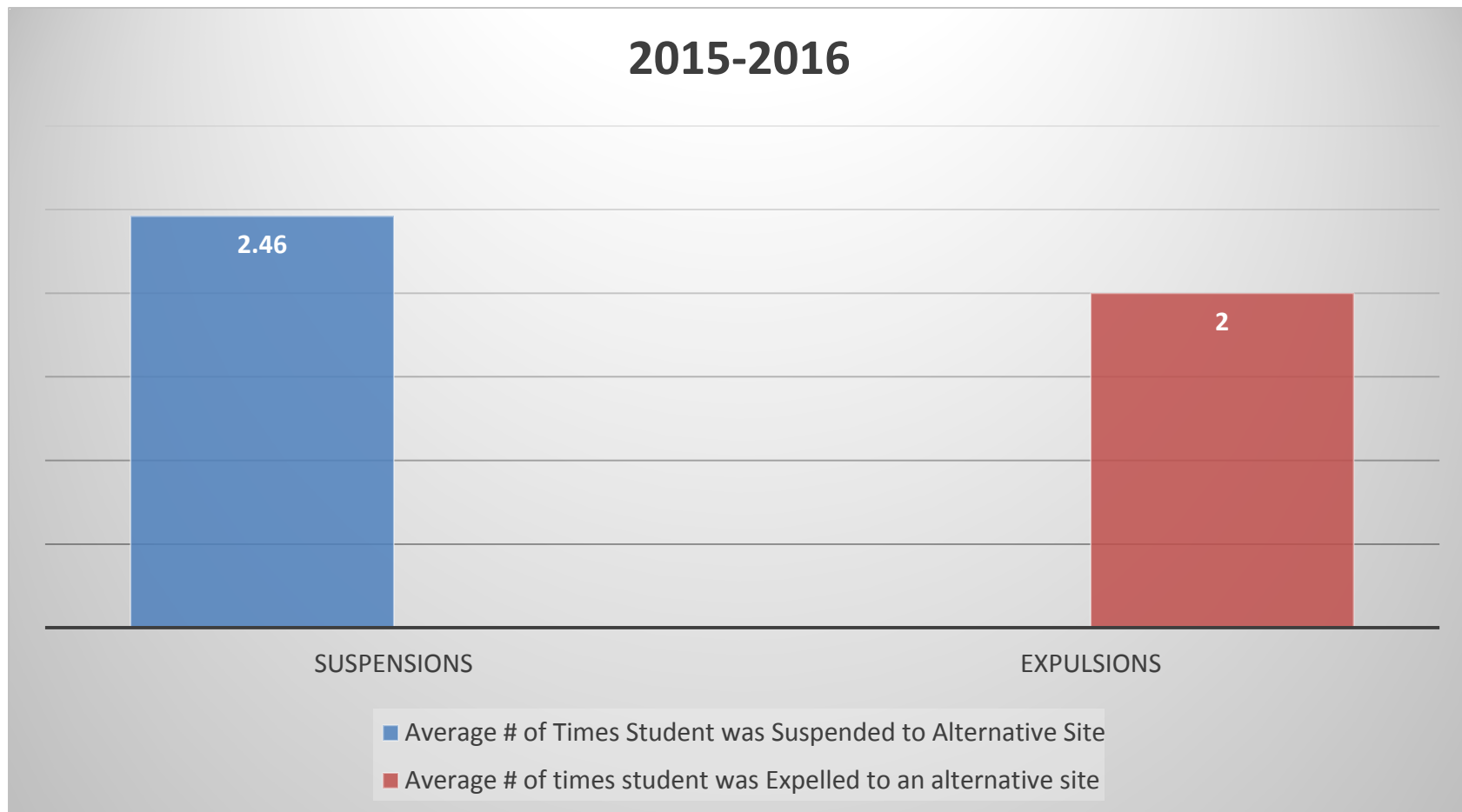
2014-2015 Race



2015-2016 Race

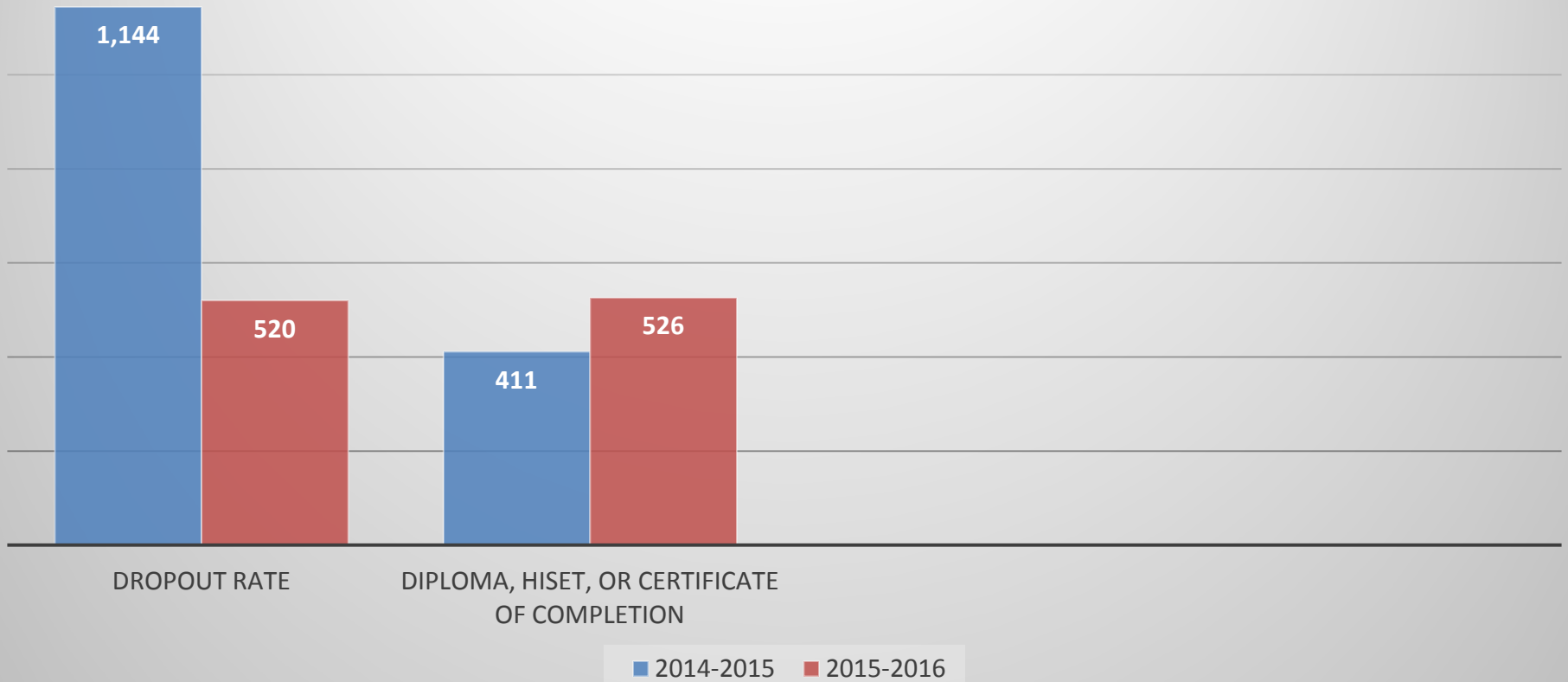


Recidivism Rates to Alternative Sites



Outcomes for Alternative Schools

2014-2016



Alternative Schools and Programs

BESE Bulletin 131 establishes parameters for both alternative schools and programs.

Alternative School:

- Must have a separate site code AND
- Enroll some or all students for 45 or more days

Alternative Program:

- Do NOT have a site code AND
- Do NOT enroll students

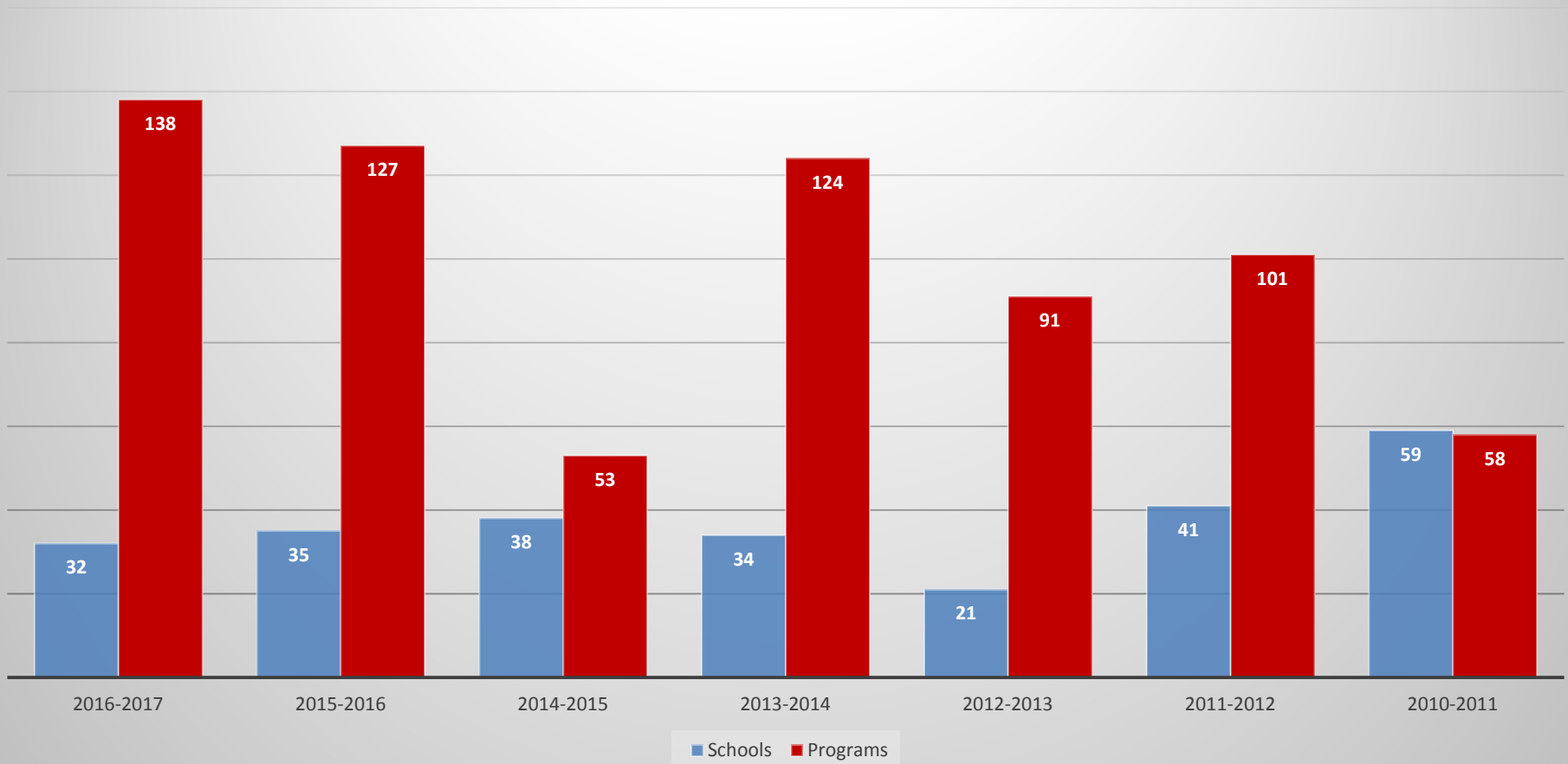


Alternative Schools and Programs

- All schools and programs have access to enter data into the Student Information System (SIS)
- For alternative schools, LDOE has data representing students referred for discipline reasons
- For alternative programs, LDOE has limited information regarding students referred for discipline reasons

Alternative Schools vs. Programs

2010-2017 Schools/Programs Count



Work Updates

- An online survey and SWOT was distributed to 231 alternative education Principals and Professional School Counselors
- Field Research:
 - 27 Site Visits since late February
 - Review of practice in other states
 - Policy review, both internal to Louisiana and external
 - Data review



Study Group Updates

- Meeting 1 March 14th

- Reviewed current practice in Louisiana related to alternative education
- Shared data on alternative schools
- Identified an aspirational definition of alternative education

- Meeting 2- April 18th

- Identified the core components fundamental to quality alternative education
- Developed goals and objectives for the core components to facilitate effective delivery

Study Group Updates

- Meeting 3 May 16th

- Present and discuss a comparative analysis of current binary structure (schools and programs)
- Review and revise for policy recommendation the definition of Alternative Education developed in meeting 1
- Formulate policy recommendations for the core components and objectives created in meeting 2

- Meeting 4 June 21st

- Review and revise initial policy recommendations to present to BESE in August 2017

Study Group Updates

- 30 Day Goals

- Host study group meeting 3
- Formulate preliminary policy recommendations

- 90 Day Goals

- Host study group meeting 4
- Finalize proposal for Fall 2017 pilot programs
- Finalize policy recommendations to share with BESE in August

Opportunities for Partnership

Points of intersection of the work of the Alternative Education Study Group and the Student Behavior and Discipline Advisory Council are to:

- Consider evidence based practices as part of behavioral modification models
- Bolster positive behavioral supports in schools

Opportunities for Partnership

- Identify national best practice around suspension and expulsion usage, including effective timeframes for each
- Identify training curriculum and resources for educators on student discipline and effective, evidence based sanctions
- Encourage outcome guidelines and learning objectives

Questions or follow up items?