

# Louisiana Believes

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## 2021-2022 Alternative Education Site Authorization

# Objectives

- Describe the goals of Alternative Education (AE) Redesign
- Build knowledge of the AE Redesign core components and guiding principles
- Share the AE authorization and site approval process
- Introduce ReAuthorization Cycle and Monitoring labels

# Agenda

- AE Redesign Background and Context
- AE Site Core Components and Policy
- 2021-2022 AE Site Authorization Process and Timeline
- Introduce ReAuthorization Cycle and Monitoring labels
- Next Steps
- Questions and Answers



# AE Redesign Background and Context

# AE Background and Context

- Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) convened an AE Study Group in Spring 2017 to explore current practice and educational services provided in alternative schools and programs.
- The Study Group charge was to:
  - Conduct a strategic assessment of current practice and policy;
  - Identify support services and guiding principles available to AE students, educators, and families; and
  - Explore partnerships to enhance and expand the effectiveness of AE.

# Alternative Education Redesign Alignment to State Statutes & ESSA

- The guiding principles of the study group's report align to current state statutes for AE schools and programs:
  - R.S. 17:252 – behavior and mental health interventions; data reporting
  - R.S. 17.416.2 – academic, behavioral, and mental health interventions
  - R.S. 17:221.4 – dropout prevention
- The study group also anticipated ESSA, which provides an opportunity to
  - Reconsider the evaluation and performance reporting on alternative schools; and
  - Leverage [federal funds](#) to support school systems in their implementation of strong AE redesign plans.



# Alternative Education Study Group

The study group report, issued Oct. 2017, provided guiding principles for redesign.

## LDOE should prioritize:

- **Appropriate accountability** for AE services and enhanced data reporting by school systems
- Providing **best practice guidance** around effective behavioral intervention
- Opportunities for **high quality professional development** to address comprehensive academic, behavioral and social/emotional needs of students
- Building **communities of support** for educators, students and families

## School Systems should prioritize:

- **Effective discipline practice** at the sending school
- Provision of **transitional processes** and supports to AE
- Implementation of academic and behavioral **interventions** to address the students' underlying issues
- **Support services**, as well as core academic and career readiness opportunities for students receiving AE services

# AE Site Core Components and Policy



# AE Policy Promoting High-Quality Services

Improving AE required substantive policy revisions.

- BESE approved revisions to AE policy, [Bulletin 131](#), in October 2018 to align to the guiding principles of the study group report.
- Policy revisions required a new authorization process to ensure all students have access to high quality services and supports.
  - Mission and Purpose
  - Transitional Planning and Support
  - Academic Interventions and Graduation Pathways
  - Behavior Intervention
  - Supports, Services and Professional Development
  - Accountability

# AE Site Core Components

The new authorization process prioritizes school systems providing a comprehensive AE site plan that aligns to state statute:

- **Mission and Purpose** - to develop and maintain a written statement of the mission and the major purposes to be served by the site.
- **Transitional Planning & Support** – to identify a structure that allows AE sites to receive information from and back to the sending school to support timely student evaluation and planning
- **Academic Interventions and Graduation Pathways** – to ensure students have access to appropriate and similar courses as on path at sending school, as well as interventions that lead to academic progress

# AE Site Core Components

(continued)

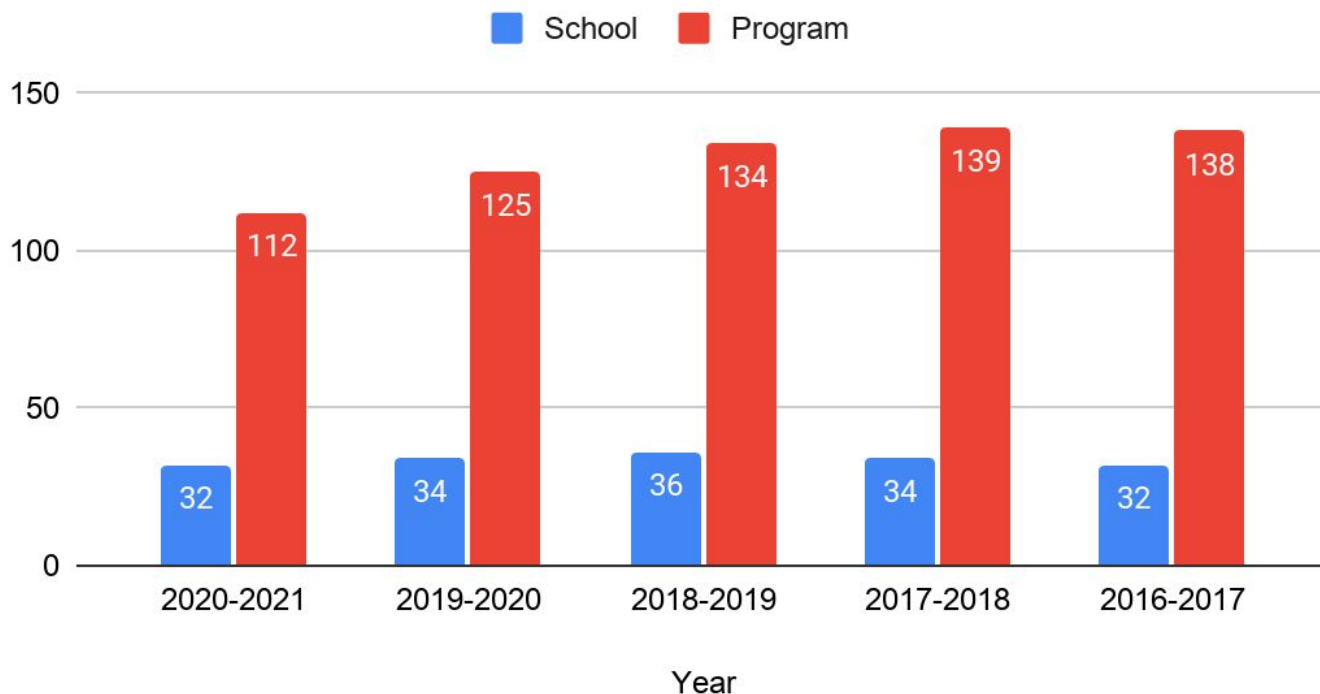
- **Behavior Intervention** – to ensure students access evidence based interventions targeting the *underlying cause* of referral to AE site
- **Supports, Services and Professional Development** – to identify specialized staffing able to meet the unique needs of students and provide a Professional Development Plan.
- **Accountability** – to identify expected outcomes and annually conduct systematic program evaluations for compliance and continuous improvement.



# Annual BESE Approval of AE Sites

In 2020-2021, there were 112 programs and 32 schools providing AE services. 5 year average number of schools is 33.6 and number of programs is 129.6.

## 5 Year Trend of School and Program Approval

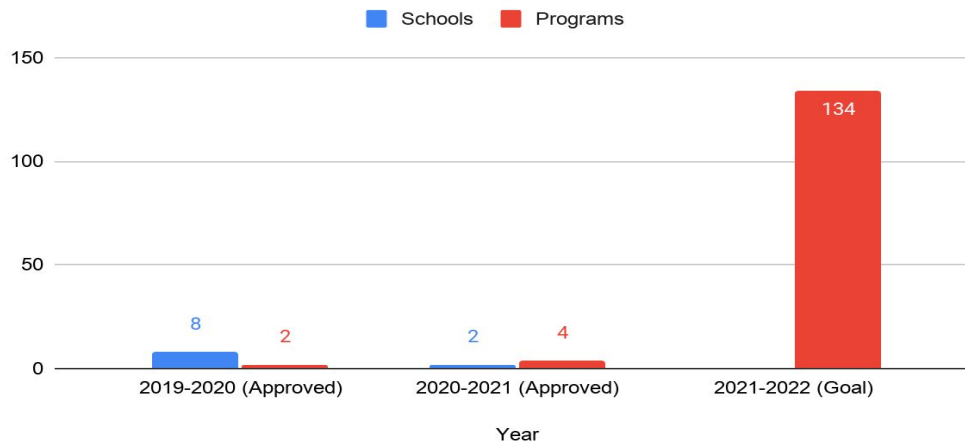


# AE Site Authorization Approval Implementation

A new authorization process was implemented in 2018-2019 and provides three years for all school systems to achieve full AE redesign implementation.

- Year 1 (2019-2020): BESE approved 10 pioneering AE sites under new authorization.
- Year 2 (2020-2021): BESE approved 6 AE sites under new authorization.
- Year 3 (2021-2022): All remaining AE schools and programs MUST submit using the new process

2020-2021 AE Redesign Approval Implementation



# 2020-2021 AE Authorization Process and Timeline



Activity	Date
<p>New AE Application released</p> <p>Required for ALL existing AE sites who have NOT completed the NEW redesign application</p> <p>Required for any new AE sites seeking first time approval</p>	<p>December 1, 2020</p>
<p>LDOE hosts information webinar on new AE authorization process</p>	<p>December 9, 2020 9 a.m. - 10 am</p> <p>December 10, 2020 3 p.m. - 4 p.m.</p>
<p>View/Verify or Change Application released</p> <p>Required for any previously approved site to verify information is correct</p> <p>Required for any previously approved site to change contact information or close a site</p>	<p>January 5, 2021</p>
<p>View Verify and Change Applications due</p>	<p>February 2, 2021</p>
<p>New AE Applications due</p>	<p>February 12, 2021</p>
<p>Site Interviews as requested with LDOE</p>	<p>March 9-10, 2021</p>
<p>BESE Meeting for Approval of AE Site List</p>	<p>April 20-21, 2021</p>

# AE Authorization Process Resources

[AE Webpage](#)

[AE Authorization Application](#)

[AE Site Application Workbook PDF](#)

[AE Authorization Guidance Document](#)

[AE Professional Development Planning Template](#)

[AE Site Transition Plan Template Fillable PDF](#)

[AE Application Rubric](#)

[AE School V. Program One-Pager PDF](#)

Introduce ReAuthorization Cycle and Monitoring labels



# Flowchart

## Monitoring and Reauthorization

## Next Steps

# Coming in 2021

- Communities of Practice [Survey](#)
- [National Alternative Education Association](#)
  - Millie Harris, Board Member - Region 6

JCFA

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# NAEA

The NAEA provides professional development, highlights exemplary best practices, and creates a space for alternative education stakeholders to share and review resources.

- NAEA and New England College partner to provide a graduate degree in Alternative Education
- Virtual school tours in January, February, March, and April (\$55 registration fee covers all tours)
- Fall conference in St. Louis

# Question & Answers

# LDOE Contact Information

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