

Alternative School Program—Short Term

The Alternative School—Short Term program is a viable approach designed to keep students in school. It offers an alternative to out-of-school suspensions, serves as a deterrent to truancy, and helps students who are potential dropouts. Its objectives are: To reduce the number of out-of-school suspensions; to reduce disruptive and delinquent behavior in the classroom and on school campus; and to keep students attending school.

Referrals: Each student is placed in the program upon a referral by a school administrator. The referring school administrator determines the length of time the student must be present (ranges from 3-10 days), in accordance with the rules of the Plan. The referring school administrator who refers a student to the Alternative School Program—Short Term, must complete Jc-167 and send a copy to the Jackson Alternative School (JAS) Principal/Designee before the student can begin the program.

Dismissals: Each student is dismissed from the program after the referral period has been satisfactorily served. The student can not reenter the referring school without a signed form, JC-167, from the Alternative School stating dismissal has been granted.

Alternative School—Short Term Guidelines

1. Attendance in the program is mandatory for students who are referred from their regular school.
2. The parent/guardian of the student placed into the Alternative School—Short Term must take the student to the Jackson Alternative School campus the first day of placement to meet with the JAS Principal/Designee. The parent/guardian will be required to pick the student up at the end of the day on the first day of assignment.
3. Students sent to the Alternative School—Short Term are responsible for bringing their books and other materials needed. The Alternative School Teacher will check to see that books and materials are brought to the Alternative School. Work assigned by the referring school must be completed before dismissal is granted. If the work assigned is not completed, the student will remain at the Alternative School until the work has been completed.
4. Students referred to the Alternative School—Short Term for the third time will not be dismissed from the program, even though time assigned has been completed, until a conference with the legal guardian/parent is held with the Alternative School Principal/Designee.
5. Students can not reenter the referring school until all days assigned are completed and all work is completed satisfactory. Days not in attendance at the Alternative School, without proper documentation, will be counted as un-excused absences from the referring school.

6. After the student has completed the Alternative School---Short Term, the student will be released to the guardian/parent to take back to the assigned school for re-admission and a conference with the referring school principal/designee.
7. If the student has behavior issues while assigned to the Alternative School—Short Term, the Alternative School Principal/Designee may take appropriate discipline measures including adding more days to the assignment or Out of School suspension. The student will still be required to complete the original days of assignment and any additional days if added by the Alternative School Principal/Designee before being dismissed. There will be no early/special dismissals from the program assignment due to referring school activities.
8. Beginning with the 2013-14 school year, a student placed/sent to the Alternative School –Short Term and ACE will not be permitted to attend or participate in any extra-curricular activities back at the referring school while assigned to the Alternative School—Short Term or ACE. Students staffed into the ACE program prior to the 2013-14 school year, will continue with the requirements in place at the time of their placement.
9. The parent/guardian of the student assigned to the Alternative School—Short Term is responsible for transporting the student the first day of the assignment. The parent/legal guardian is required to meet with JAS principal/designee the 1st day of attendance. The parent/guardian will be required to pick the student up at the end of the day on the first day of assignment. The student will be allowed to ride district transportation to the JAS school site from the referring school, after the 1st day the student is assigned. Student are subject to the bus behavior rules of JAS while riding a school bus to and from JAS.
10. Students who fail to follow the rules of the Alternative School personnel will be subject to having extra days assigned to the school, or suspension from the program, or school expulsion at the discretion of the Alternative School’s principal/designee.
11. Any tests to be administered to students attending the Alternative School—Short Term will be sent to the JAS using electronic delivery. The tests, after being completed, will be returned in the same manner.

Classification of Violations

Violations of the Code of Student Conduct are divided into three classes. Class I—Minor; Class II—Intermediate; and Class III—Major. Each classification is followed by a disciplinary procedure to be followed by each school within the district. In the following classes of violations and disciplinary procedures, it is understood that the student will be provided with due process before any disciplinary action is taken. These classes of violations are designed to be used with students in Grades 5-12.

Class I—Minor Offenses

- A. Minor distraction of other students—any behavior that alters the teaching process of the classroom or educational activity.
- B. Use of profane or obscene language.
- C. Non conformity to Dress Code
- D. Minor misbehavior on a school campus.
- E. Inappropriate public display of affection between students (hugs, kisses, hand holding).
- F. Eating or drinking in unauthorized areas
- G. Locker misuse or abuse. Sharing lockers is not permitted. Violation of this rule will also result in loss of locker privileges.
- H. Littering of school property
- I. Possession of IPODS, MP3 Players, CD players, video games, radios, cards, or any electronic device that has storage and communication capabilities; and other inappropriate devices without written administrative approval.
- J. Sitting in parked vehicles after arriving at school and/or during the school day
- K. Intentionally providing false information to school personnel such as forgery of parent/guardian name
- L. Minor physical conflicts (example: pushing, shoving) on campus which stops when reprimanded
- M. Participation on campus in organizations not recognized by the school
- N. Any other violation which the principal may deem reasonable to fall within this category after consideration of extenuating circumstances.

Disciplinary Actions For Class I Offenses

First Offense: Conference with student, parental contact when warranted. Circumstances may warrant disciplinary action as outlined under subsequent offenses.

Subsequent Offenses: Parental contact and disciplinary action such as corporal punishment, in-school suspension, etc. After three Class I Offenses are earned by a student, the next (fourth and future) Class I Offense may be considered a Class II Intermediate Offense.

Class II Intermediate Offenses

- A. Leaving campus or class without permission
- B. Gambling—Any participation in games of chance for money and/or other things of value
- C. Defiance of school board employee's authority—any verbal or non-verbal refusal to comply with a lawful direction or order of a school board employee. (Overt and continuing to be determined by an administrator).
- D. Fighting—any physical conflict between two or more individuals on school grounds, on a school bus, or at any school sponsored activity (mutual combat, mutual altercation) When two or more persons mutually participate in use of

force or physical violence that requires either 1) physical restraint or 2) results in injury requiring first aid or medical attention..

- E. Instigating Conflict—the deliberate attempt to incite, provoke physical conflict or verbal altercation between individuals
- F. Vandalism—Any intentional and deliberate action resulting in injury or damages to public property or the real or personal property of another
- G. Stealing, Larceny, Petty Theft—The intentional unlawful taking or carrying away of property valued at less than \$100 belonging to or in possession or custody of another
- H. Possession of stolen property with the knowledge of having reason to believe that it is stolen
- I. Threats, Intimidation, Extortion, Harassment—Verbally or by written or printed communication, maliciously threatening any injury to the person, property or reputation of another, with the intent to extort money or take advantage of any person, to do any act or refrain from doing any act against his/her will
- J. Trespassing—Willfully entering or remaining on any school property without being authorized, licensed, or invited; or, having been authorized, licensed, or invited after being warned by an authorized person to depart and refuses to do so
- K. Possession of lighters, matches, fireworks/firecrackers etc.; and/or igniting fireworks or firecrackers
- L. Unjustified activation of a fire extinguisher
- M. Written or verbal proposition to engage in sexual acts
- N. Use of obscene gestures, racial slurs, illustrations, or language directed toward another person
- O. Illegal Organizations—any attempt to use the school day for activities that are not school related or school sponsored
- P. Mere possession of a knife (as defined in Florida Statutes),
- Q. Touching/hitting of another person against his/her will in a threatening or suggestive manner
- R. Possession and/or use of tobacco or tobacco products on school property—reported to school SRO for possible citation
- S. Major distractions—any behavior that alters the teaching process so as to prevent class activity from continuing in an orderly manner
- T. Any action by a student that constitutes an inappropriate use of a computer and/or network resource or to improperly restrict or inhibit others from using and enjoying those resources
- U. Speeding or exceeding campus speed limits or reckless driving
- V. Refusal to give name or intentionally giving false information to authorized persons
- W. Misuse of lunch codes
- X. Use of unauthorized video/recording devices on campus
- Y. Tardy to class or period—fourth (4th) and subsequent Tardy results in disciplinary actions being implemented at the 1st referral stage.

Disciplinary Actions For Class II Offenses

Upon a documented Class II Offense, the student will be given days at the Alternative School in the following order:

1st referral—assignment to the Alternative School—Short Term for 3 days
Upon return from the 3 days assignment, the school's RTI Team shall convene and initiate/review RTI interventions.

2nd referral—assignment to the Alternative School—Short Term for 5 days
Upon return from the 5 days assignment, the school's RTI Team shall convene and initiate/review RTI interventions.

3rd referral—assignment to the Alternative School—Short Term for 10 days
Upon return from the 10 days assignment, the school's RTI Team shall convene and initiate/review RTI interventions.

4th referral—assignment to the ACE Program at JAS for 90 good days. The student's RTI Plan must be submitted to the ACE school for documentation of interventions.

Class III Offenses

Acts which result in violence to another's person or property or which pose a direct threat to the safety of others in the school.

These acts are so serious that they must include a Teacher-Student-Parent-Administrator Conference and require administrative actions which may result in the removal of the student from school or alternative placement.

Examples:

Drugs or controlled substances and Alcohol—use of, possession of, distribution of, sale of, and/or under the influence of

- A. Possession of any instrument or object (as defined by Section 790.001(13), Florida Statutes.) that can inflict serious harm on another person or that can place a person in reasonable fear of serious harm.
- B. Battery Upon a School Board Employee
- C. Robbery, Stealing, Larceny, Grand Theft--\$100 or more
- D. Burglary of school property
- E. Criminal Mischief—in the excess of \$100
- F. Arson of school board property
- G. Bomb Threats
- H. Explosions—preparing, possession, or igniting on school board property

- I. Sexual Acts—including but not limited to battery, sexual intercourse, attempted rape, or rape, and/or other acts considered inappropriate for school environment by the Principal
- J. Aggregated Battery
- K. Inciting or participating in a major student disorder which results in destruction or damage of property or personal injury to others (major disruption of all or a significant portion of campus activities, school-sponsored events, and school bus transportation) Disruptive behavior that poses a serious threat to the learning environment, health, safety, or welfare of others. Example: Bomb threat, inciting a riot, initiating a false fire alarm. (Do not use this code for students defying authority, disobeying or showing disrespect to others, using inappropriate language or gestures, or classroom disruption.)
- L. Indecent exposure
- M. Unprovoked assault or attack on another individual (The physical use of force or violence by an individual against another. The attack must be serious enough to warrant consulting law enforcement or result in serious bodily harm. (To distinguish from Fighting, report an incident as Battery only when the force or violence is carried out against a person who is not fighting back.))
- N. Possession, distribution or manufacture of pornography
- O. Aggressive Bullying
- P. Any other offense which the principal may deem reasonable to fall within this category after consideration of all circumstances.

Disciplinary Options

- Out-of-school suspension—9 days
- Recommendation for expulsion submitted to Superintendent
- Expulsion
- Alternative placement

The Jackson County School Board supports and enforces the zero tolerance policy for unlawful possession, use and distribution of illicit drugs, controlled substances of any kind, or is in possession of any drug paraphernalia. However, for a student's first offense of simple possession of a controlled substance, the student and parent will be offered alternative placement in the ACE program in lieu of expulsion. The terms of the alternative placement shall be as follows:

1. The student will be suspended for nine days and recommended for expulsion.
2. Prior to the expiration of the nine day suspension, the student and parents must notify the school district, in writing, that the student waives his/her right to an expulsion hearing and agrees to

placement in the ACE program on the following terms and conditions:

- a. ACE placement shall be for a minimum of ninety days and all rules and regulations of that program must be strictly adhered to;
- b. The student shall submit to at least monthly drug testing by a Board-approved facility for the duration of his/her placement in ACE; however, ACE reserves the right to randomly test any student at the school's discretion. Drug testing shall be at the student's expense and it shall be the student's responsibility to schedule the monthly testing and have the testing facility provide the results to the principal of ACE.
- c. The student shall participate in a substance abuse program which shall be approved in advance by the ACE principal. Participation in the program shall be during non-school hours, at the student's expense and the student shall provide documentation of his/her completion of the program to the ACE principal.
- d. If the student fails to take the drug tests as agreed, tests positive for controlled substances, fails to attend and complete the substance abuse counseling program, or fails to adhere to the rules and regulations of the ACE program, he or she shall be expelled for one calendar year and shall not have the right to any further hearing before the Board.

This alternative placement shall only be available for a student's first offense for simple possession of a controlled substance.

E. Possible Criminal Penalties

The following is a list, which includes, but is not limited to, those acts which require disciplinary action by the school and may result in criminal penalties and/or criminal prosecution: F.S. 1001.42; 1006.07; 1006.13; 1006.21; 1006.22; 1006.28.

1. Illegal use, possession, or sale of controlled substances, as defined in Chapter 893
2. Possession of a firearm (as defined in Section 921, Title 18, GFSA), a knife, a weapon, or an item which can be used as a weapon

3. Violence against any school district personnel by a student
4. Violation of school board transportation policies, including disruptive behavior on a school bus or at a school bus stop, is grounds, also, for suspension of the student's privilege of riding on a school bus.
5. Violation of the school board's sexual harassment policy.
6. Possessing or discharging a firearm or weapon, as defined in F.S. 790.001, to school, any school function, or on any school-sponsored transportation or activity. Weapon means any dirk, knife, metallic knuckles, slingshot, billie, tear gas gun, chemical weapon, or device, or other deadly weapon except a common pocketknife, plastic knife, or blunt-bladed knife, except as authorized in support of school sanctioned activities.
7. Making bomb threats or false reports
8. Victimization of students (including bullying and hazing)

F. Interscholastic, Extracurricular Student Activities

12. In order for a student to be eligible to participate in interscholastic extracurricular student activities, he/she must maintain satisfactory conduct. If the student is convicted of, or is found to have committed, a felony or a delinquent act which would have been a felony if committed by an adult, regardless of whether adjudication is withheld, participation in interscholastic extracurricular activities will be denied. A student in the situation described above will not be allowed to participate for a minimum of nine weeks after which a school-based discipline review committee will be convened to determine the status of the student in regard to participation in extracurricular activities. Beginning with the 2013-14 school year, a student placed/sent to the Alternative School –Short Term and ACE will not be permitted to attend or participate in any extra-curricular activities back at the referring school while assigned to the Alternative School—Short Term or ACE. Students staffed into the ACE program prior to the 2013-14 school year, will continue with the requirements in place at the time of their placement.