



## **Tennessee Department of Education**

### Office of Whole Child Supports

Andrew Johnson Tower

710 James Robertson

Nashville, TN 37243

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# **Annual Alternative Education Report**

## **(2018-19 School Year)**

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Pat Conner, Executive Secretary  
Karen Ball, Council Member  
Bryan Douglas, Council Member  
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Joe Matheny, Council Member  
Jay Stetzel, Council Member  
Lisa Woods, Council Member  
Momodou Keita, Council Member  
Kay Davenport, Council Member

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*Governor's Advisory Council for Alternative Education*

*January 2020*

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

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# Introduction

T.C.A. § 49-6-3402 requires that at least one alternative school or program be established for districts serving students in grades 7-12 who have been suspended or expelled from the regular school program and also allows districts to create alternative schools or programs for grades 1-6. T.C.A. § 49-6-3404 mandates the establishment of 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. The report presented here meets the legislative requirement set forth.

To obtain the needed data, the Governor’s Advisory Council for Alternative Education (Advisory Council), in conjunction with the department of education, developed the Annual Alternative Education Survey. A copy of the survey is included as [Appendix A](#). When reporting on alternative education, districts used the definition supplied by the Advisory Council which states, “A non-traditional academic program or school designed to meet the student’s educational, behavioral, and social needs.” Operating under this definition, districts reported on various aspects of their alternative education programming. Information presented in this report summarizes surveys provided by Tennessee districts.

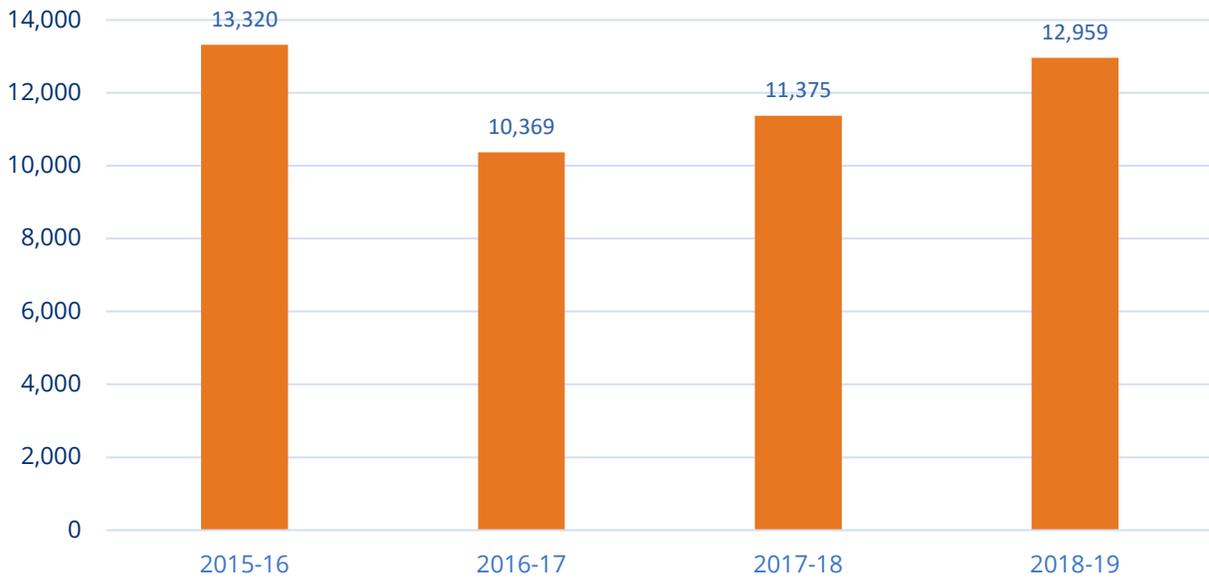
In addition to collecting data on current local programming, the survey also asked districts a series of questions related to their current needs, and those major findings are included in this report. This report also provides a historical background of alternative education in Tennessee, current trends in the field, and stories of success.

Questions regarding this report may be directed to Theresa Nicholls at (615) 253-2112 or via email at [Theresa.Nicholls@tn.gov](mailto:Theresa.Nicholls@tn.gov).

## Survey Results and Findings

The annual alternative education survey requires each district to identify an alternative education coordinator, thereby providing a framework for networking, collaboration, training, and technical assistance. The designee for every district is listed in [Appendix B](#). The survey asks districts 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 One below reflects survey responses from districts. The total number of students served in an alternative setting for 2018-19 was **12,959**, an 8.7 percent increase from 2017-18. Please see Chart One below for trend data.

**Chart One: Total Number of Students Served in Alternative Settings**

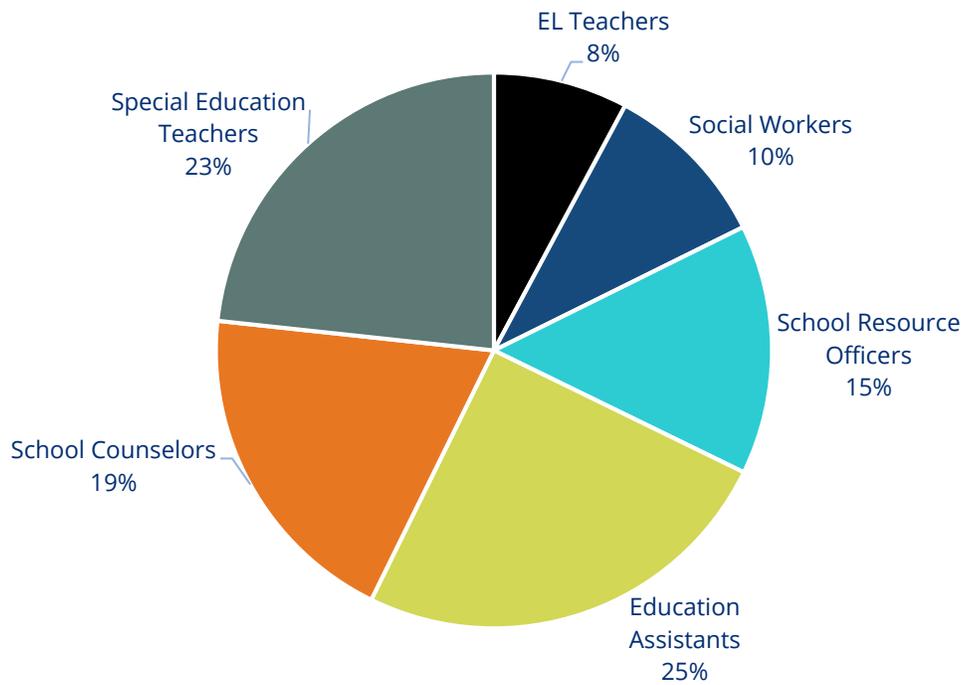


**Table One: 2018-19 Alternative Education Survey Summary**

	K-5	6-8	9-12
Number of alternative schools	26	68	82
Number of alternative programs	34	80	95
Number of classrooms	80	244	402
Number of students served	722	3,897	8,340
Average length of placement	45 days	45 days	45 days
Number of certified staff	68	276	490
Number of classified staff	37	154	223

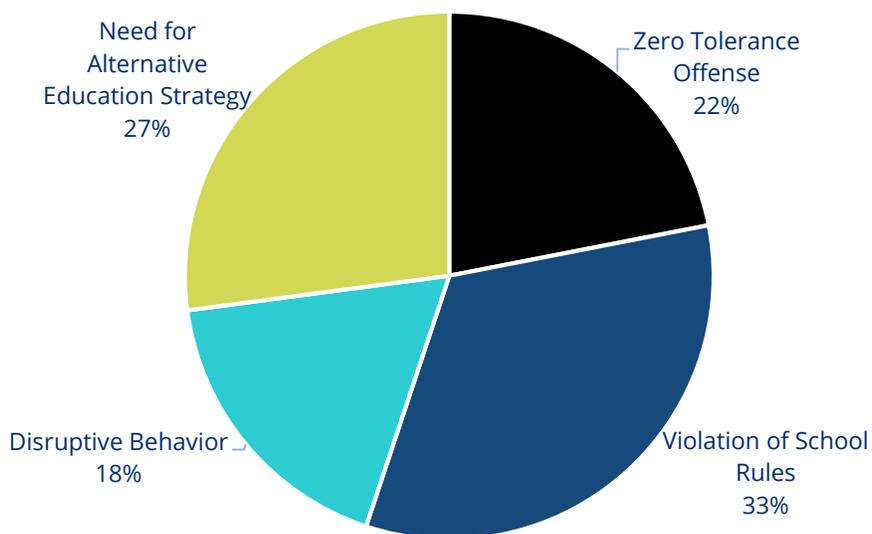
Districts were asked to distinguish between the various types of professionals providing services to students in the alternative school or program. Statewide, there were **834** certified teachers serving students. Of those certified teachers, **253** were certified special education teachers, and **85** were certified English as a second language (ESL) teachers. A total of **211** school counselors are also working with alternative education students. Other groups providing alternative education services include **414** non-certified staff in which **272** were education assistants, **158** were school resource officers (SROs), and **107** were social workers. Please see Chart Two below.

**Chart Two: Professionals Providing Services**



Districts were asked to rate the primary reason for student participation in the alternative school or program. The number one reason for attendance was for *violation of school rules* (33%). Other reasons include *need for alternative education strategy* (27%), committing a *zero-tolerance offense* (22%), and *disruptive behavior* (18%). Chart Three below summarizes those findings.

**Chart Three: Primary Reason for Student Participation**



Alternative education programs provide a range of educational, social and personal, transition, and dropout prevention services to meet the needs of all students. 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. Districts are strongly encouraged to establish an alternative education advisory committee to guide program development and implementation.

The alternative education survey gave districts an opportunity to discuss the general needs of their program(s) and/or school(s). Sample comments from districts 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.

Many districts recommended changing the current basic education program (BEP) funding to designate specific funding for alternative education. A history of alternative education in Tennessee is included in [Appendix D](#).

## Exemplary Practices in Alternative Education

### Recognition Program

The exemplary practices for alternative education were adopted in 2017 by the State Board of Education to ensure high-quality educational services for students served by alternative and non-traditional education programs. The exemplary practices provide a framework for districts and schools to utilize in the development and implementation of a standards-based approach to high-quality alternative education programs, identifies essential characteristics of high-quality programs, and stresses the importance of meeting the educational and social and personal needs of all students.

The department, in partnership with the Advisory Council, established the *Exemplary Practices in Alternative Education Recognition Program* to recognize the efforts of schools exemplifying high-quality alternative education services.

Upon submission of an application, a team comprised of members from the department of education, the Advisory Council, and the Tennessee Alternative Education Association (TAEA), reviewed each application. Once the application was reviewed, members from the team conducted a site visit to the school or program. The Advisory Council met following the site visits to discuss the district applications and select those schools/programs deemed exemplary.

These exemplary schools and programs will be a model for other districts throughout the state to develop high-quality alternative education programs.

## Alternative Education Recognition Program Recipients

### **Bartlett Bridges Alternative School, Bartlett City Schools**

Bartlett Bridges Alternative School was established in August 2015 to serve K-12 students who have been expelled from their base schools. The mission of Bartlett Bridges is to promote student success and provide short-term interventions that focus on academic and pro-social behaviors and skills.

Aligned with Tennessee Academic Standards, instruction is delivered by highly-qualified staff using a combination of direct instruction and technology-based instruction, including PLATO, Curve, Course Recovery, and Edgenuity. Bartlett Bridges' behavior management system is structured around the implementation of RTI<sup>2</sup>-B and restorative practices. Program highlights include:

- individual and small group instruction delivered by highly-qualified, supportive staff;
- development of positive relationships between students, families, and staff;
- transition programming to monitor student success and provide support upon return to base schools;
- mental health supports provided by district counseling and intervention supervisors, district and school social workers, school counselors, and/or community-based substance abuse mental health counselors;
- student-led morning meetings to develop leadership and communication skills; and
- a monthly forum delivered by community speakers on topics that support exposure to career exploration, community engagement, life skills, and promotion of healthy lifestyles to address the needs of the whole child.

Additionally, a local advisory board has been developed to provide feedback and support in program development. The advisory board is comprised of parents, faculty and staff, district staff, and community partners.

Bartlett Bridges' success, evidenced by data-driven indicators including low recidivism rates, increased academic performance, improved attendance, and parent and student satisfaction surveys, is attributed to the continued support and leadership of Dr. David A. Stephens, Superintendent, Dr. Korrie White, Director of Student Services, supervisors Ms. Zoe Bozeman and Dr. Momodou Keita, and Leticia Sanders, District Social Worker.

### **Gordon K-8 Achievement Academy, Shelby County Schools**

Gordon K-8 Achievement Academy prides itself on not just being an alternative school, but an alternative opportunity for students wanting to get back on track with their educational dreams. Students remanded to Gordon can choose to remain at the school after completing the program. Gordon consistently motivates, educates and empowers students to be successful academically, socially, and behaviorally. Gordon also generates opportunities for students to learn and practice resiliency, determination, and optimism for targeted navigations through grades K-8. Program highlights include:

- Clearly defined priority areas: Academics, Achievement, Attendance, Attitude, and Alternatives;

- a solutions-oriented approach to providing services to students and parents that includes the services of a professional school counselor, alternative educational specialist, behavioral specialist, school social worker, school psychologist, school nurse, and school resource officers;
- schoolwide incentives with a heavy emphasis on student ambassador board members (middle school students) who provide mentoring support to elementary students;
- varied programs and activities that include service learning projects, student restorative justice sessions, small group tutoring sessions, social skills training, parent workshops, and gender-based hygiene workshops for students; and
- an active advisory board that provides programming support such as church/school partnerships and mentoring opportunities for students.

Gordon K-8 is led by Dr. Leviticus Pointer, Principal and Ms. Valerie Mathews, Supervisor of Alternative Education.

### **Ridgedale Alternative School, Knox County Schools**

Ridgedale Alternative School provides an educational opportunity for middle school students that have received a long-term suspension or expulsion from their base school. Highly qualified teachers provide instruction in the four core academic areas as well as STEM enrichment, physical education, art, and music. Students who are eligible for special education services receive appropriate services from a licensed special education teacher. Transportation is provided for all students as well as free breakfast and lunch through the Community Eligibility Program. Program highlights include:

- restorative practices to support the idea that positive relationships are essential to maintaining community and repairing relationships when harm has occurred. Facilitated by a full-time Restorative Interventionist, restorative practices restore broken relationships, rather than simply assigning a negative consequence. The restorative interventionist also facilitates students' re-entry into their base school through restorative conferencing with their base school staff to ensure success upon their return;
- faculty and staff are committed to learning and practicing cultural competence for effective cross-cultural and responsive teaching;
- trauma-informed training for faculty and staff as one of seven Knox County Schools selected to be a Trauma-Informed Model School;
- Positive Behavior Interventions and Support (PBIS), a proactive behavior management and learning program, providing a full continuum of supports to address behavior difficulties; and
- service-learning each week giving students the chance to contribute to the school community and learn that they can make a positive difference. Some of the activities in which students participate are peer tutoring, the garden project, assisting custodians with tasks around the building, and assisting teachers in the classroom.

The principal of Ridgedale Alternative Schools is Diana Gossett and Kristi Phillips is Assistant Principal.

### **Clinch River Community School, Anderson County Schools**

Clinch River Community School (CRCS), often referred to as a school of choice, is Anderson County Schools' alternative school. Divided into three grade-level programs: elementary, middle, and high school, students are placed through IEP placements, discipline hearings, and parent requests. CRCS provides structural and behavioral supports that promote academic and social-personal success. The goal at CRCS is for students to receive an education in a safe, supportive, and academically challenging environment. CRCS program highlights include:

- grade-level standards are taught with the same rigor as their base schools and are coupled with additional social-personal supports needed to foster success;
- elementary students receive an additional 45-minute reading class of either RTI, special education intervention, or enrichment. Special education math intervention is also offered;
- partnership with the local high school football team for a weekly mentoring program;
- Middle School Online Learning Academy that provides home-based, online learning for students struggling with social anxiety disorders;
- middle school students receive an additional 45 minutes of reading either with their classroom teacher or the special education interventionist. A 45-minute special education math intervention is also available;
- students have the opportunity to take vocational classes;
- utilizing OdysseyWare, credit recovery and 21st Century Programs are offered with direct support and monitoring from highly-qualified teachers;
- Chromebooks are provided to all students to promote enhanced group learning as well as individualized learning plans;
- discipline is structured around the positive rather than the negative. School-wide maxims are created with input from local businesses/industries;
- student supports are provided by a school counselor, part-time school counselor, or mental health professional and include life skill classes, individual counseling, and group counseling;
- for a select group of students, a supervised work-study program that provides jobs and transportation to those jobs;
- extensive community support from donations for Christmas Holiday Giving Program, uniform clothes closet, Easter Egg Extravaganza, and treats for teachers and students every Wednesday;
- students and teachers actively give back through community projects (i.e., Operation Christmas Child, Red Bandana Initiative, adopting a nursing home, Little Ponderosa Zoo, America Recycles Day); and
- parent involvement through themed family nights each year.

CRCS is led by Darren Leach, Principal and Kim Towe, SPED Director.

# 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.

<b>School System:</b>	<b>Date:</b>
<b>District Alternative Education Coordinator:</b>	<b>Email Address:</b>
<b>Phone Number:</b>	<b>Fax:</b>
<b>Address:</b>	<b>City and Zip Code:</b>
<b>Person Completing Report (if different from above):</b>	<b>Phone Number:</b>

**ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL(S) OR PROGRAM(S) THAT OPERATED DURING THE SCHOOL YEAR 2018-19:**

*(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 DISTRICT):**

	K-5	6-8	9-12
Number of <b>alternative school(s)*</b>			
Number of <b>alternative education program(s)**</b>			
Total number of classroom(s) serving alternative education students			
Total number of students served during the 2018-19 school year			
Number of students placed more than once during the 2018-19 school year			
District's total capacity (seats)			
Average length of placement (stay) in an alternative setting (number in days)			
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 district level		
Attendance at the alternative school is mandatory		
Transportation is provided to the alternative school/program		

\* A facility dedicated solely to alternative education

\*\* An alternative education program within a school

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

	K-5	6-8	9-12
Zero tolerance offense (firearm, drugs, aggravated assault)			
Violation of school rules			
Disruptive behavior			
Need for an alternative education strategy			
Other (please describe below)			

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

	<b>K-5</b>	<b>6-8</b>	<b>9-12</b>
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			
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 Tenn. Code Ann. §49-6-3402*

**NUMBER OF SPECIAL FACULTY/STAFF SERVING ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL/PROGRAM**

	<b>K-5</b>	<b>6-8</b>	<b>9-12</b>
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 models or curriculum are you currently implementing in your alternative education classroom(s)?
What technical assistance opportunities would help you as an alternative educator?
What is the greatest challenge facing your alternative education school(s)/programs(s)?
Additional comments/feedback that would be appropriate for the alternative education report to the General Assembly?
What offenses are classified as “zero tolerance” in your school?
Please list any community partners that collaborate with the alternative school/program.

## Appendix B: District Alternative Education Coordinators

SCHOOL DISTRICT	ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL/PROGRAM NAME	PRINCIPAL/PROGRAM COORDINATOR	E-MAIL ADDRESS
Achievement School District	Pathways in Education - Frayser	James Bacchus, II	<a href="mailto:jbacchusii@pathwaysedu.org">jbacchusii@pathwaysedu.org</a>
Alamo City	Not Required	NA	NA
Alcoa City	Pershing Academy of Learning	Dr. Keri Prigmore	<a href="mailto:kprigmore@alcoaschools.net">kprigmore@alcoaschools.net</a>
Alcoa City	AMS HELP Program	Richard Gamble	<a href="mailto:rgamble@alcoaschools.net">rgamble@alcoaschools.net</a>
Alvin C. York Institute	Fentress County Alternative School	Kaye Copley O'Brien	<a href="mailto:k.obrien@fentressboe.net">k.obrien@fentressboe.net</a>
Anderson County	Connect Academy	Teresa Taylor	<a href="mailto:ttaylor@acs.ac">ttaylor@acs.ac</a>
Anderson County	Bridge Academy/Alcoa	Dr. Tricia Jones	<a href="mailto:djones@acs.ac">djones@acs.ac</a>
Anderson County	Clinch River Community School	Darren Leach	<a href="mailto:dleach@acs.ac">dleach@acs.ac</a>
Anderson County	AC 21st Century Program	Kim Towe	<a href="mailto:ktowe@acs.ac">ktowe@acs.ac</a>
Arlington Municipal	Arlington Alternative Education Program	Jeremy Yow	<a href="mailto:jeremy.yow@acsk-12.org">jeremy.yow@acsk-12.org</a>
Athens City	Athens Pathway Schools	Justin Wallace	<a href="mailto:jwallace@athensk8.net">jwallace@athensk8.net</a>
Bartlett Municipal	Bartlett Bridges	Zoe Anne Bozeman	<a href="mailto:zbozeman@bartlettschools.org">zbozeman@bartlettschools.org</a>
Bedford County	Bedford County Learning Academy	Emily Wilson	<a href="mailto:wilsone@bedfordk12tn.net">wilsone@bedfordk12tn.net</a>
Bells City	Pre-K - None Required	NA	NA
Benton County	Benton County Alternative Program	Dr. Randy Shannon	<a href="mailto:randy.shannon@bcos.org">randy.shannon@bcos.org</a>
Bledsoe County	Bledsoe County Alternative Schools	Linda Pickett	<a href="mailto:pickettl@bledsoecountyschools.org">pickettl@bledsoecountyschools.org</a>
Blount County	AIM Academy	Justin Ridge	<a href="mailto:justin.ridge@blountk12.org">justin.ridge@blountk12.org</a>
Bradford SSD	Bradford Alternative School	Shane Paschall	<a href="mailto:spaschall@bradfordspecial.com">spaschall@bradfordspecial.com</a>
Bradley County	Goal Academy At-Risk Learner Program	Kyle Pge	<a href="mailto:kpage@bradleyschools.org">kpage@bradleyschools.org</a>
Bristol City	THS Alternative Program	Roby Witcher	<a href="mailto:witcherr@btcs.org">witcherr@btcs.org</a>
Bristol City	THS Behavior Modification	Dave Collins	<a href="mailto:collinsd@btcs.org">collinsd@btcs.org</a>
Bristol City	VMS Alternative Program	Seymour Ray	<a href="mailto:rays@btcs.org">rays@btcs.org</a>
Bristol City	Elementary Learning Center	Kelli Campbell	<a href="mailto:campbellk1@btcs.org">campbellk1@btcs.org</a>
Campbell County	Homer A. Rutherford Learning Academy	Sandi Wilson	<a href="mailto:sandi.wilson@ccpstn.net">sandi.wilson@ccpstn.net</a>
Campbell County	J.L. "Sarge" Collins Learning Academy	Donna Singley	<a href="mailto:donna.singley@ccpstn.net">donna.singley@ccpstn.net</a>
Cannon County	Lion Academy Alternative School	Courtney Nichols	<a href="mailto:courtney.nichols@ccstn.net">courtney.nichols@ccstn.net</a>

Carroll County	Carroll County Tech School	Stephanie Pearson	<a href="mailto:spearson@carrollschools.com">spearson@carrollschools.com</a>
Carter County	Siam Learning Center	Mike Ensor	<a href="mailto:mikeensor@carterk12.net">mikeensor@carterk12.net</a>
Cheatham County	Cheatham Academy	Andrea N. Bringard, Ed. D	<a href="mailto:andrea.bringard@ccstn.org">andrea.bringard@ccstn.org</a>
Chester County	North Chester Alternative School	Bobby Helton	<a href="mailto:bobby.helton@chestercountyschools.org">bobby.helton@chestercountyschools.org</a>
Claiborne County	Claiborne Alternative Program	Paula Goins	<a href="mailto:paula.goins@claibornecsd.org">paula.goins@claibornecsd.org</a>
Clarksville-Montgomery County	CMCSS Alternative School	Dr. Kim Sigears	<a href="mailto:kim.sigears@cmcss.net">kim.sigears@cmcss.net</a>
Clay County	Clay County Alternative School	Teia Arms	<a href="mailto:tarms@clayedu.com">tarms@clayedu.com</a>
Cleveland City	Teen Learning Center	Barbara B. Ector	<a href="mailto:bector@clevelandschools.org">bector@clevelandschools.org</a>
Cleveland City	Cleveland Middle	Leneda Laing	<a href="mailto:llaing@clevelandschools.org">llaing@clevelandschools.org</a>
Cleveland City	Cleveland High	Autumn O'Bryan	<a href="mailto:aobryan@clevelandschools.org">aobryan@clevelandschools.org</a>
Clinton City	Alternative Education	Suzanne Oliver	<a href="mailto:olivers@clintonschools.org">olivers@clintonschools.org</a>
Cocke County	Cocke County Alternative Learning Center	Bryan Douglas	<a href="mailto:douglasb@cocke.k12.tn.us">douglasb@cocke.k12.tn.us</a>
Cocke County	Cocke County Adult HS	Bryan Douglas	<a href="mailto:douglasb@cocke.k12.tn.us">douglasb@cocke.k12.tn.us</a>
Cocke County	Graduation Alt Program (GAP)	Bryan Douglas	<a href="mailto:douglasb@cocke.k12.tn.us">douglasb@cocke.k12.tn.us</a>
Coffee County	Coffee County Koss Center	Jeff Johnson	<a href="mailto:johnsonj@k12coffee.net">johnsonj@k12coffee.net</a>
Collierville Municipal	IMPACT Program	Veronica Norfleet	<a href="mailto:vnorfleet@colliervilleschools.org">vnorfleet@colliervilleschools.org</a>
Crockett County	Crockett County Alternative School	Jerrold Shelton	<a href="mailto:jerrod.shelton@crockettschools.net">jerrod.shelton@crockettschools.net</a>
Cumberland County	Cumberland County Alternative School - Middle & High	Stephanie Barnes	<a href="mailto:barness5@ccschools.k12tn.net">barness5@ccschools.k12tn.net</a>
Dayton City	Dayton City Alternative School	Chris Tallent	<a href="mailto:tallentch@daytoncity.net">tallentch@daytoncity.net</a>
Decatur County	Riverside High	Hugh Smith	<a href="mailto:hugh.smith@decaturschools.org">hugh.smith@decaturschools.org</a>
Decatur County	Decatur County Middle	Keith Walker	<a href="mailto:keith.walker@decaturschools.org">keith.walker@decaturschools.org</a>
DeKalb County	Alternative Learning Center	Danny Bond	<a href="mailto:dannybond@dekalbschools.net">dannybond@dekalbschools.net</a>
Dickson County	New Directions Academy	Rhiannon Mason	<a href="mailto:rmason@dcbe.org">rmason@dcbe.org</a>
Dyersburg City	College Street Campus	Lyn Taylor	<a href="mailto:ltaylor@dyersburgcityschools.org">ltaylor@dyersburgcityschools.org</a>
Elizabethton City	Elizabethton City Alternative Program	Brian Culbert	<a href="mailto:brian.culbert@ecschoools.net">brian.culbert@ecschoools.net</a>
Etowah City	Etowah City School	Cheryle Cooper	<a href="mailto:cooperc6@k12tn.net">cooperc6@k12tn.net</a>
Fayette County	Fayette County Alternative School	Aaron Litzey	<a href="mailto:aaron.litzey@fcsk12.net">aaron.litzey@fcsk12.net</a>
Fayetteville City	FCS Alternative School	Ron Perrin	<a href="mailto:perrinr@fcsboe.org">perrinr@fcsboe.org</a>
Fentress County	Fentress County Alternative School	Diana Hannahan	<a href="mailto:diana.hannahan@fentressboe.com">diana.hannahan@fentressboe.com</a>
Franklin County	Franklin County Alternative School	Jeff Sons	<a href="mailto:jeff.sons@fcstn.net">jeff.sons@fcstn.net</a>

Germantown Municipal	Alternative Ed. Program (The Point/ GMSD)	Robert LeGault II	<a href="mailto:robert.legault@gmsdk12.org">robert.legault@gmsdk12.org</a>
Gibson County SSD	N Gibson Alternative Learning Center	Michael Wickersham	<a href="mailto:wickersham@gcssd.org">wickersham@gcssd.org</a>
Gibson County SSD	S Gibson Alternative Learning Center	Sharon Ostrander	<a href="mailto:Ostranders@gcssd.org">Ostranders@gcssd.org</a>
Gibson County SSD	Medina Alternative Learning Center	Amy Richardson	<a href="mailto:richardsa3@k12tn.net">richardsa3@k12tn.net</a>
Giles County	Giles County Alternative School	Donna Cobb	<a href="mailto:dcobb@gcboe.us">dcobb@gcboe.us</a>
Giles County	Richland School	Micah Landers	<a href="mailto:mlanders@gcboe.us">mlanders@gcboe.us</a>
Grainger County	Grainger County Alternative School	Keith Lamb	<a href="mailto:klamb1@k12tn.net">klamb1@k12tn.net</a>
Greene County	Thomas Howard McNeese/ABIC	Mike Garland	<a href="mailto:mike.garland@gcstn.org">mike.garland@gcstn.org</a>
Greeneville City	Greeneville City Alternative Learning Program	Fred Dobson	<a href="mailto:dobsonf@gcschools.net">dobsonf@gcschools.net</a>
Greeneville City	Elementary Behavior and Transition Program	Tracie Deaton	<a href="mailto:deatont@gcschools.net">deatont@gcschools.net</a>
Grundy County	Grundy County Alternative School	Deidre Helton	<a href="mailto:dhelton@hickmank12.org">dhelton@hickmank12.org</a>
Hamblen County	Miller Boyd Alternative School	Randy Greene	<a href="mailto:greener@hcboe.net">greener@hcboe.net</a>
Hamilton County	Washington	Rodney Knox	<a href="mailto:knox_rodney@hcde.org">knox_rodney@hcde.org</a>
Hamilton County	ELL	Karol Stroud	<a href="mailto:stroud_k@hcde.org">stroud_k@hcde.org</a>
Hamilton County	Hearing Impaired	Sarah Samarin	<a href="mailto:samarin_s@hcde.org">samarin_s@hcde.org</a>
Hamilton County	Hearing Impaired	Deborah Smith	<a href="mailto:smith_deborah@hcde.org">smith_deborah@hcde.org</a>
Hamilton County	Transition Classroom	Riquel Burton	<a href="mailto:burton_riquel@hcde.org">burton_riquel@hcde.org</a>
Hancock County	The Alternative School	Janie Cole	<a href="mailto:janie.cole@hcsk12.com">janie.cole@hcsk12.com</a>
Hardeman County	Hardeman County Learning Center	Thomas Polk	<a href="mailto:polkt1@hardemancountyschools.org">polkt1@hardemancountyschools.org</a>
Hardin County	Hardin County Alternative/Learning Center	Charles Patton	<a href="mailto:chuck.patton@hctnschools.com">chuck.patton@hctnschools.com</a>
Hawkins County	Pathways Alternative School	Sharon Lindsey	<a href="mailto:sharon.lindsey@hck12.net">sharon.lindsey@hck12.net</a>
Haywood County	Sunny Hill Innovative Learning Center	Stephen May	<a href="mailto:stephen.may@hcsk12.net">stephen.may@hcsk12.net</a>
Henderson County	Alternative Academy	Jennifer Robin Jones	<a href="mailto:jones.robin@hcschoolstn.org">jones.robin@hcschoolstn.org</a>
Henry County	Henry County Alternative Learning Center	Michael Poteete	<a href="mailto:poteetem@henryk12.net">poteetem@henryk12.net</a>
Hickman County	Hickman County Alternative School	Bill Cude	<a href="mailto:bill.cude@hickmank12.org">bill.cude@hickmank12.org</a>
Houston County	Houston County Alternative School	Linda McDonough	<a href="mailto:mcdonough15@houstonk12tn.net">mcdonough15@houstonk12tn.net</a>
Humboldt City	Humboldt Alternative School	Lillian Shelton	<a href="mailto:lillian.Shelton@hcsvikings.org">lillian.Shelton@hcsvikings.org</a>
Humphreys County	Humphreys County Alternative School	Emily Ballard	<a href="mailto:ballarde@hcss.org">ballarde@hcss.org</a>
Huntingdon SSD	NONE	NA	NA
Jackson County	Alternative Learning Center	Johnny McLerran	<a href="mailto:johnnymclerran@jacksoncoschools.com">johnnymclerran@jacksoncoschools.com</a>
Jackson-Madison County	Parkview Learning Center	Jason Newman	<a href="mailto:jnewman@jmcss.org">jnewman@jmcss.org</a>

Jefferson County	Jefferson Academy	Garry Jett	<a href="mailto:gjett@jcboe.net">gjett@jcboe.net</a>
Johnson City	Science Hill HS Topper Academy	Melanie Riden-Bacon	<a href="mailto:ridenbaconm@jcschools.org">ridenbaconm@jcschools.org</a>
Johnson County	Extended Service Center	Madeline Throop	<a href="mailto:lthroop@jocoed.net">lthroop@jocoed.net</a>
Kingsport City	Cora Cox Academy	Julie Malone	<a href="mailto:jmalone@k12k.com">jmalone@k12k.com</a>
Knox County	Richard Yoakley School	Michelle Clayton	<a href="mailto:michelle.clayton@knoxschools.org">michelle.clayton@knoxschools.org</a>
Knox County	Ridgedale Alternative School	Diana Gossett	<a href="mailto:kristi.phillips@knoxschools.org">kristi.phillips@knoxschools.org</a>
Knox County *	KCG Night Alternative Program	Seth Smith	<a href="mailto:seth.smith@knoxschools.org">seth.smith@knoxschools.org</a>
Lake County	Lake County Alternative	Preston Caldwell	<a href="mailto:preston.caldwell@lcfalcons.net">preston.caldwell@lcfalcons.net</a>
Lauderdale County	Alternative Learning Academy	Billie Young	<a href="mailto:byoung@mail.lced.net">byoung@mail.lced.net</a>
Lawrence County	Lawrence County Achievement Academy	Sarah Cope	<a href="mailto:sarah.cope@lcss.us">sarah.cope@lcss.us</a>
Lebanon SSD	Alternative School Program (ASP)	Geoff Atchley	<a href="mailto:geoff.atchley@lssd.org">geoff.atchley@lssd.org</a>
Lenoir City	Lenoir City Elementary	Don Maloney	<a href="mailto:dmaloney@lenoircityschools.net">dmaloney@lenoircityschools.net</a>
Lenoir City	Lenoir City High School	Chip Orr	<a href="mailto:corr@lenoircityschools.net">corr@lenoircityschools.net</a>
Lenoir City	Lenoir City Middle School	Brandee Hoglund	<a href="mailto:bhoglund@lenoircityschools.net">bhoglund@lenoircityschools.net</a>
Lewis County	Lewis County Alternative School	Scott Duncan	<a href="mailto:sduncan@lewisk12.org">sduncan@lewisk12.org</a>
Lexington City	See Carroll County	Patrick Steele	<a href="mailto:psteele@carroll.tn.org">psteele@carroll.tn.org</a>
Lincoln County	Lincoln County Alternative School	Amy Clemons	<a href="mailto:aclemons@lcdoe.org">aclemons@lcdoe.org</a>
Loudon County	Loudon County Alternative School	Tom Hankinson	<a href="mailto:hankinsont@loudoncounty.org">hankinsont@loudoncounty.org</a>
Macon County	Macon County Alternative Learning Center	Stephanie Meador	<a href="mailto:smeador@maconcountyschools.org">smeador@maconcountyschools.org</a>
Manchester City	WMS Flight Program	Julie Miller	<a href="mailto:jmiller7@k12mcs.net">jmiller7@k12mcs.net</a>
Marion County	Marion County Alternative School	Larry Ziegler	<a href="mailto:lziegler@mctns.net">lziegler@mctns.net</a>
Marshall County	Alternative Learning Center	Michelle Thammavongsa	<a href="mailto:mthammavongsa1@k12marshalltn.net">mthammavongsa1@k12marshalltn.net</a>
Macon County	Macon County High School	Stephanie Meador	<a href="mailto:smeador@maconcountyschools.org">smeador@maconcountyschools.org</a>
Maryville City	Maryville Academy	Linda Radcliffe	<a href="mailto:linda.radcliffe@maryville-schools.org">linda.radcliffe@maryville-schools.org</a>
Maury County	Horace O. Porter School	Dedra Dawson	<a href="mailto:dawsond@mauryk12.org">dawsond@mauryk12.org</a>
McMinn County	AIM (Achieve, Improve, Mature)	J. Preston Moser	<a href="mailto:pmoser@mcminnschools.com">pmoser@mcminnschools.com</a>
McNairy County	McNairy County Alternative School	Stephanie Brown	<a href="mailto:browns@mcnairy.org">browns@mcnairy.org</a>
Meigs County	Meigs High Alternative School	John Grissom	<a href="mailto:johngrissom@meigsboe.net">johngrissom@meigsboe.net</a>
Metro/Nashville Public	Bass Alternative Learning Center	Henry Johnson	<a href="mailto:Henry.Johnson@mnps.org">Henry.Johnson@mnps.org</a>
Metro/Nashville Public	Johnson Alternative Learning Center	Dr. Sharon Braden	<a href="mailto:Sharon.Braden@mnps.org">Sharon.Braden@mnps.org</a>
Metro/Nashville Public	Park Ave. Elementary School	Deltina Braden Short	<a href="mailto:deltina.braden@mnps.org">deltina.braden@mnps.org</a>

Metro/Nashville Public	MNPS Middle School ALC	Bruce Jackson	<a href="mailto:Bruce.Jackson@mnps.org">Bruce.Jackson@mnps.org</a>
Metro/Nashville Public	Glenn Elementary ALC	Dr. Dexter Adams	<a href="mailto:Dexter.Adams@mnps.org">Dexter.Adams@mnps.org</a>
Milan SSD	Milan Alternative School Program	Kevin Ellison	<a href="mailto:ellisonk@milanssd.org">ellisonk@milanssd.org</a>
Millington Municipal	Millington Municipal Alternative Program	Jill Church	<a href="mailto:jchurch@millingtonschools.org">jchurch@millingtonschools.org</a>
Shelby County Schools	Shelby County Schools	Valerie Matthews	<a href="mailto:Matthewsvm@scsk12.org">Matthewsvm@scsk12.org</a>
Shelby County	Adolescent Parenting Program	Melita N. Thomas	<a href="mailto:thomasmn@scsk12.org">thomasmn@scsk12.org</a>
Shelby County	Project S.T.A.N.D.	Dr. Tarol Clements	<a href="mailto:clementstp@scsk12.org">clementstp@scsk12.org</a>
Shelby County	Project G.R.A.D.	Rochelle Griffin	<a href="mailto:griffinrj@scsk12.org">griffinrj@scsk12.org</a>
Shelby County	G.W. Carver College and Career Academy	Dr. James Suggs	<a href="mailto:suggsj@scsk12.org">suggsj@scsk12.org</a>
Shelby County	Gordon Achievement Academy	Leviticus Pointer	<a href="mailto:pointerls@scsk12.org">pointerls@scsk12.org</a>
Shelby County	Hope Academy	Eugene Lockhart	<a href="mailto:lockhartej@scsk12.org">lockhartej@scsk12.org</a>
Shelby County	Ida B. Wells Academy	Robert Davis	<a href="mailto:davisr6@scsk12.org">davisr6@scsk12.org</a>
Shelby County	MCS Prep - Northeast	Kenneth Dickerson	<a href="mailto:dickersonka@scsk12.org">dickersonka@scsk12.org</a>
Shelby County	MCS Prep - Northwest	Roger Jones	<a href="mailto:jonesrf@scsk12.org">jonesrf@scsk12.org</a>
Shelby County	MCS Prep - Southeast	Roger Jones	<a href="mailto:jonesrf@scsk12.org">jonesrf@scsk12.org</a>
Shelby County	Airways Achievement Academy	Eric Cooper	<a href="mailto:coppereh@scsk12.org">coppereh@scsk12.org</a>
Shelby County	Newcomers International Center	Gabriela Toro	<a href="mailto:torog@scsk12.org">torog@scsk12.org</a>
Shelby County	Renaissance Academy Lakeside	Tyria Butler	<a href="mailto:butlertt@scsk12.org">butlertt@scsk12.org</a>
Shelby County	Renaissance Academy North	David Matykiewicz	<a href="mailto:matykiewiczds@scsk12.org">matykiewiczds@scsk12.org</a>
Monroe County	Monroe County	Chris Bowers Becky Duncan	<a href="mailto:bowersc@monroe.k12.tn.us">bowersc@monroe.k12.tn.us</a> <a href="mailto:duncanb@monroe.k12.tn.us">duncanb@monroe.k12.tn.us</a>
Moore County	Raider Academy	Wendy Hart	<a href="mailto:wendy.hart@moorecountyschools.net">wendy.hart@moorecountyschools.net</a>
Morgan County	MCCTC (9-12)	Dan Shoemaker	<a href="mailto:shoemakerd@mcsed.et">shoemakerd@mcsed.et</a>
Morgan County	Coalfield School	Matt Murphy	<a href="mailto:murphym@mcsed.net">murphym@mcsed.net</a>
Morgan County	Central High School	Aaron Jones	<a href="mailto:jonesa@mcsed.net">jonesa@mcsed.net</a>
Oak Ridge City	Secret City Academy	Christopher Scott	<a href="mailto:cscott@ortn.edu">cscott@ortn.edu</a>
Obion County	Obion County Central High School	Tammy Sisson	<a href="mailto:tssison@ocboe.com">tssison@ocboe.com</a>
Obion County	South Fulton Middle/High School	Kimberly Jackson	<a href="mailto:kjackson@ocboe.com">kjackson@ocboe.com</a>
Oneida SSD	Indian Academy	Kevin Byrd	<a href="mailto:KByrd@oneidaschools.org">KByrd@oneidaschools.org</a>
Overton County	Reach Academy	Danny McCoin	<a href="mailto:dmccoin@overtoncountyschools.net">dmccoin@overtoncountyschools.net</a>
Paris SSD	Intervention Classroom	Chris Hudgins	<a href="mailto:chris.hudgins@parisssd.org">chris.hudgins@parisssd.org</a>
Paris SSD	Intervention Classroom	Jason Scarbrough	<a href="mailto:jason.scarbrough@parisssd.org">jason.scarbrough@parisssd.org</a>

Perry County	Perry County Alternative School	Donna Roberts	<a href="mailto:droberts@perrycountyschools.us">droberts@perrycountyschools.us</a>
Pickett County	Pickett County High School	Jane Winningham	<a href="mailto:jane.winningham@pickettk12.net">jane.winningham@pickettk12.net</a>
Polk County	South Fulton High School	Cheryl Ogg	<a href="mailto:oggc@k12tn.net">oggc@k12tn.net</a>
Putnam County	White Plans Academy	Joe Matheney	<a href="mailto:matheneyj1@pcsstn.com">matheneyj1@pcsstn.com</a>
Rhea County	Crossroads Academy	Jessie Messimer	<a href="mailto:messimerj@rheacounty.org">messimerj@rheacounty.org</a>
Richard SSD	Richard Hardy Alternative Program	Beth Webb	<a href="mailto:bwebb@richardhardy.org">bwebb@richardhardy.org</a>
Roane County	Midtown Education Center	Chris Johnson	<a href="mailto:cbjohnson@roaneschools.com">cbjohnson@roaneschools.com</a>
Robertson County	Robertson County Alternative Program	Teno Geritano	<a href="mailto:Teno.geritano@rcstn.net">Teno.geritano@rcstn.net</a>
Rogersville City	Rogersville City Alternative Program	Rhonda Winstead	<a href="mailto:winsteadr@rcschool.net">winsteadr@rcschool.net</a>
Rutherford County	Daniel McKee Alternative School	Diana Brown	<a href="mailto:brownd@rcschools.net">brownd@rcschools.net</a>
Rutherford County	Smyrna West Alternative School	Judy Sides	<a href="mailto:sidesj@rcschools.net">sidesj@rcschools.net</a>
Sequatchie County	Sequatchie County Alternative School	Jennifer Barker	<a href="mailto:jbarker@sequatchie.k12.tn.us">jbarker@sequatchie.k12.tn.us</a>
Sevier County*	Hardin High School	Scott Sutton	<a href="mailto:scottsutton@sevier.org">scottsutton@sevier.org</a>
Sevier County	Greenbriar Academy	Jason Kerley	<a href="mailto:jasonkerley@sevier.org">jasonkerley@sevier.org</a>
Sevier County	Parkway Academy	Dr. Jeff Moore	<a href="mailto:jeffmoore@sevier.org">jeffmoore@sevier.org</a>
Scott County	Transitional Learning Center/Real School Tier II	Melissa Rector	<a href="mailto:melissa.rector@scottcounty.net">melissa.rector@scottcounty.net</a>
Shelby County	Bartlett Elementary Intervention Program	Page Watson	<a href="mailto:pwatson@bartlettschools.org">pwatson@bartlettschools.org</a>
Shelby County	Collierville Elementary Intervention Program	Louise Claney	<a href="mailto:lclaney@colliervilleschools.org">lclaney@colliervilleschools.org</a>
Shelby County	Lowrance Elementary Intervention Program	Kelvin Bates	<a href="mailto:kbates@scsk12.org">kbates@scsk12.org</a>
Smith County	Smith County Alternative School	Michael Murray	<a href="mailto:scott.murray@smithcoedu.net">scott.murray@smithcoedu.net</a>
Shelby County-Millington	Millington Municipal	Jill Church	<a href="mailto:jchurch@millingtonschools.org">jchurch@millingtonschools.org</a>
Stewart County	Alternative Learning Center	Jeannie Nolen	<a href="mailto:jeannienolen@stewartcountyschools.org">jeannienolen@stewartcountyschools.org</a>
Sullivan County	Sullivan North High School	Steve Dixon	<a href="mailto:steve.dixon@sullivank12.net">steve.dixon@sullivank12.net</a>
Sullivan County	Sullivan Central High School	Tammy Mays	<a href="mailto:tammy.mays@sullivank12.net">tammy.mays@sullivank12.net</a>
Sullivan County	Bluff City Middle School	Tiffany Curtis	<a href="mailto:tiffany.curtis@sullivank12.net">tiffany.curtis@sullivank12.net</a>
Sumner County	R. T. Fisher Alternative School	David Hallman	<a href="mailto:david.hallman@sumnerschools.org">david.hallman@sumnerschools.org</a>
Sweetwater City	Sweetwater City Schools	Brandi Smith	<a href="mailto:brandi.smith@scstn.net">brandi.smith@scstn.net</a>
Tipton County	Alternative Learning Center	Steve Zurhellen	<a href="mailto:szurhellen@tipton-county.com">szurhellen@tipton-county.com</a>
Trenton SSD	Trenton SSD Alternative School	Jason Driggers	<a href="mailto:jason.driggers@trentonssd.org">jason.driggers@trentonssd.org</a>
Trousdale County	Trousdale County Alternative Learning Center	Toby Woodmore	<a href="mailto:tobywoodmore@tcschools.org">tobywoodmore@tcschools.org</a>
Tullahoma City	Tullahoma Alternative School	Karen Browning	<a href="mailto:karen.browning@tcsedu.net">karen.browning@tcsedu.net</a>

Unicoi County	Siam Learning Center	Mike Ensor	<a href="mailto:mikeensor@k12tn.net">mikeensor@k12tn.net</a>
Union County	Union Academy	Victor H. Price II	<a href="mailto:pricev@ucps.org">pricev@ucps.org</a>
Union County	Elem/Middle Alternative Center	Laura Jones	<a href="mailto:Laura.jones@ucps.org">Laura.jones@ucps.org</a>
Van Buren County	Van Buren County Schools Alternative Program	Kurt Powers	<a href="mailto:powersk@k12tn.net">powersk@k12tn.net</a>
Warren County	Warren Academy	Franklin Fisher	<a href="mailto:fisherf@warrenschoools.com">fisherf@warrenschoools.com</a>
Washington County	Alternative Learning Program	James. E. Murphy, Jr.	<a href="mailto:murphyj@wcde.org">murphyj@wcde.org</a>
Wayne County	Wayne County Alternative Education Program	Heather Warren	<a href="mailto:heather.warren@waynetn.net">heather.warren@waynetn.net</a>
Weakley County	Weakley County Alternative School	Joyce Hale	<a href="mailto:joyce.hale@wcsk12tn.net">joyce.hale@wcsk12tn.net</a>
White County	White County Alternative School/ Warrior Academy	Farrah Griffith (6-8) Grant Swallows (9-12) Bryan Haley	<a href="mailto:farrah.griffith@whitecoschools.net">farrah.griffith@whitecoschools.net</a> <a href="mailto:grant.swallows@whitecoschools.net">grant.swallows@whitecoschools.net</a> <a href="mailto:bryan.haley@whitecoschools.net">bryan.haley@whitecoschools.net</a>
Williamson County	Williamson County Schools ALC	Josiah Holland	<a href="mailto:josiah.holland@wcs.edu">josiah.holland@wcs.edu</a>
Wilson County	MAP Academy	Shaun Caven	<a href="mailto:cavens@wcschools.com">cavens@wcschools.com</a>

# Appendix C: Sample Comments from School Districts from the 2018-19 School Year

School districts were asked to name the greatest challenge facing their alternative education school/program for the Tennessee General Assembly. The most frequent responses received from districts are provided below. The responses shed light on the challenges these schools and programs face in meeting the needs of students in an alternative setting.

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

- Funding
- Transitioning back from alternative placement to a base school
- Finding community service opportunities
- Family environment
- Job opportunities for students
- Technology
- Mental health support
- Apathy among students
- Good instruction
- Staff retention and training
- Physical space (lack of)
- Transportation
- Lack of communication between base school and alternative education school/program

# 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. Former Juvenile Judge William D. Field, Sr. identified a true need for alternatives to student expulsion or suspension from school (Comptroller of the Treasury, 2005, 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 (Comptroller of the Treasury, 2005, p. 8). The legislature soon amended that bill in 1986 to *require* an alternative school for students in grades 7–12 in each district (T.C.A. § 49-6-3402).

The Education Improvement Act (EIA) was passed by the Tennessee General Assembly in 1992. This mandated that any school district 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 districts to create alternative programs for grades 1–6. The General Assembly also passed legislation preventing students from graduating from an alternative school (Comptroller of the Treasury, 2005, 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 (Comptroller of the Treasury, 2005, p. 8-9). In 2004, the Senate passed [Joint Resolution 746](#) requiring 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 established 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: ***“A nontraditional academic program designed to meet the student's educational, behavioral, and social needs.”***

In August 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 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 2009, the Advisory Council hosted the first annual Student Discipline and Alternative Education Institute with over 300 educators in attendance. In October 2009, the council joined with the National Alternative Education Association (NAEA) on the first ever southeastern regional summit on alternative education held in Rogers, Arkansas. At this

conference, the Advisory Council explored best practices, national trends, and allowed alternative educators an opportunity to collaborate with other practitioners outside of the state.

The Advisory 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.