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

Annual Alternative Education Report
(2024-25 School Year)

Leslie Watson, Executive Secretary, Tennessee Department of Education
Dr. Karen Ball, Council Member
Lee Farris, Council Member
Josiah Holland, Council Member
Martina Stump, Council Member
Bryan Douglas, Council Member
Dr. Momodou Keita, Council Member
Sharon Lindsey, Council Member
Melita Thomas, Council Member
Suzie Estes, Council Member

Governor's Advisory Council for Alternative Education January 2026

Printable report also available on the department's website at Alternative Education (tn.gov).

Table of Contents

Introduction 3

Survey Results and Findings 3

Appendix A: Annual Alternative Education Survey 8

- Overview 8
- Cover Page 9
- Alt. Ed. Survey 10
- Related Documents 14

Appendix B: LEA Alternative Education Coordinators 15

Appendix C: Alternative School/Program Coordinators 21

Appendix D: Responses from LEAs from the 2024-25 School Year 29

Appendix E: History of Alternative Education in Tennessee 30

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 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 shall, upon request, make a 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 E. 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 (the department), 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. The 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 Leslie Watson, Alternative Education Program Manager, at the department via email at Leslie.Watson@tn.gov, or by phone (629) 395-2926.

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 each LEA is listed in Appendix B. Individual alternative school/program coordinators are listed in Appendix C. The survey asks LEAs to report by grade and grade bands (i.e., 1–5, 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 2024-25, as reported in the LEA surveys, was 16,122, a 2 percent decrease from 2023-24. Please see Figure 1 for trend data.

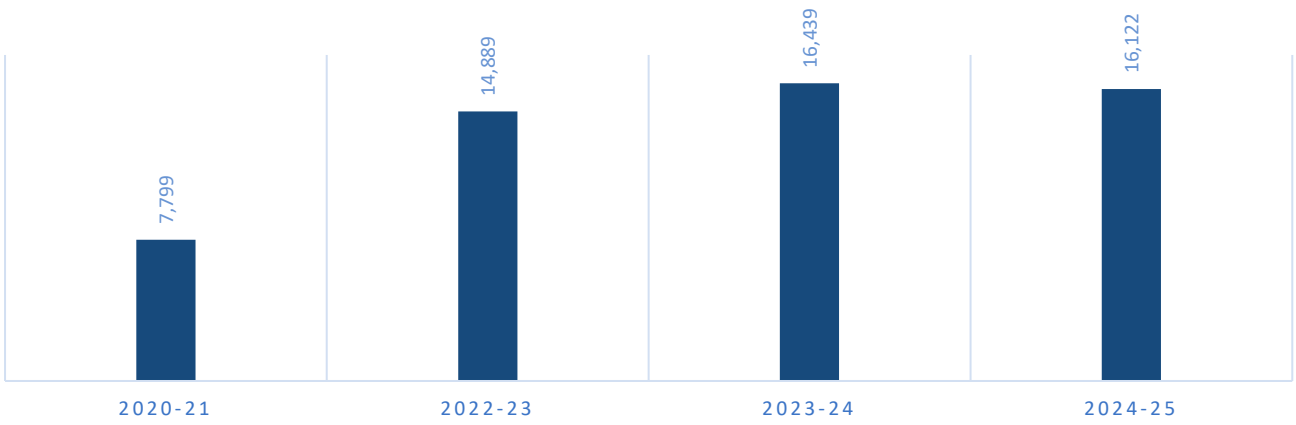
Table 1: 2024-25 Alternative Education Survey Summary

	K–12
Number of alternative schools	24
Number of alternative programs	152
Number of classrooms	766
Number of certified staff	958
Number of non-certified staff	534
Number of alternative education faculty/staff FTE	1,404
Number of alternative schools/programs with mandatory attendance	160
Number of alternative schools/programs providing transportation	75
Number of LEAs with an established Alternative Education Advisory Committee	107

Number of Students Served by Grade Level											
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
76	74	142	175	320	918	1,830	2,148	3,369	2,960	2,380	1,730

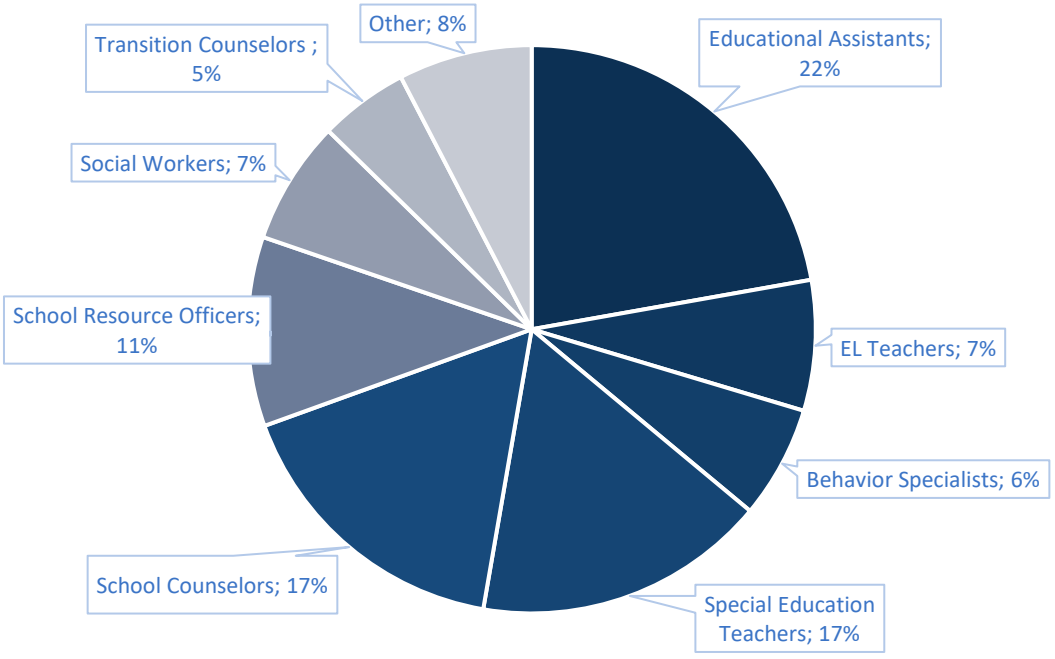
	1–5	6–8	9–12
Number of students served	787	4,896	10,439
Average length of placement	44 days	57 days	61 days
Number of students placed more than once	118	588	772

Figure 1: Number of Students Served in Alternative Settings



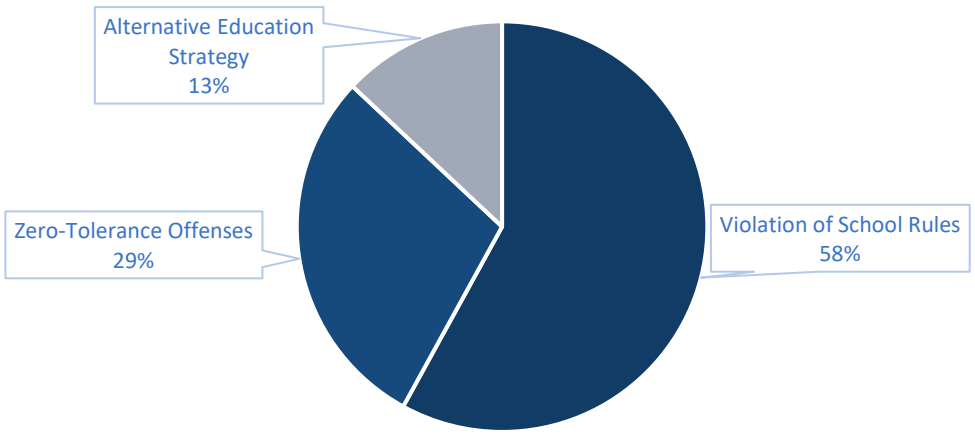
LEAs were asked to distinguish between the various types of professionals providing services to students in alternative schools or programs. Statewide, there were **958** certificated staff and **534** non-certificated staff serving students. Of those staff, **263** were certified special education teachers, and **117** were certified English language (EL) teachers. A total of **264** school counselors were working with alternative education students. Other groups providing alternative education services included **350** education assistants, **170** school resource officers (SROs), **111** social workers, **80** transition counselors, and **101** 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 alternative schools or programs. The number one reason for attendance in the K-12 grade span was a *violation of school rules*. Additionally, the second greatest reason for attendance in the grade spans of K-12 was *zero-tolerance offenses.* Please see Figure 3.

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



Alternative education schools and 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 are located in a separate alternative school building, which has a designated school number. Alternative programs may be located within the regular school or be a self-contained program within a school. Alternative programs include, but are not limited to, night schools or in-school suspension. Pursuant to T.C.A. § 49-6-3402(i) alternative schools and alternative programs may provide virtual instruction to students assigned to the alternative school or alternative program through a virtual school or virtual program in accordance with State Board Virtual Education Rule 0520-01-03-.05. Tracking of student attendance for students assigned to an alternative school or alternative program who are receiving virtual instruction shall comply with the attendance procedures set forth in State Board Virtual Education Rule 0520-01-03-.05. Alternative schools and programs are short-term intervention programs designed to provide educational services outside of the regular school program for students who have been suspended or expelled. All alternative schools and programs must adhere to the requirements outlined in T.C.A. § 49-6-3402.

In conclusion, the *Alternative Education Survey* revealed a 2 percent decrease in the number of students served. The average length of stay increased across all grade bands and the primary reason for student placement remained consistent with previous years. The top reason was violation of school rules, followed by zero-tolerance offenses and the need for alternative

education strategies. The survey gave LEAs an opportunity to convey general needs and challenges of their program(s) and/or school(s). Responses from LEAs are found in Appendix D. These responses illuminate the needs of alternative education programs across the state. The *Alternative Education Survey* was delivered via the ePlan platform, and these results reflect a 100 percent participation rate from all LEAs that operated an alternative school or program. As a result, the data included in this report is thought to be an accurate depiction of alternative education in the state.

Appendix A: Annual Alternative Education Survey

Overview

FY 2025 - Alternative Education Survey

Alternative Education Survey Overview
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.
Alternative education schools and programs throughout the state vary in the types of services they provide, the number of students served, and their overall purpose and mission. The provided 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.
• Alternative school means a short-term intervention program designed to provide educational services outside of the regular school program for students who have been suspended or expelled. Alternative schools are located in a separate facility from the regular school program.
• Alternative program means a short-term intervention program designed to provide educational services outside of the regular school program for students who have been suspended or expelled. Alternative programs may be located within the regular school or be a self-contained program within a school. Alternative programs include, but are not limited to, night schools or in-school suspension.
• Some alternative schools and programs have a mixture of elements, making them a hybrid school serving various alternative programming purposes.
In order to gather data for the annual report, 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 by June 30, 2025, as it pertains to students served in alternative education schools or programs. Email any questions or issues with submission to Leslie.Watson@tn.gov.

Directions
Please complete the following survey by June 30, 2025, as it pertains to students served in alternative schools or programs (include only students from your LEA, excluding students that may be contracted by other LEAs for services. Each LEA will complete a survey to include student details from those enrolled in their LEA.
If the LEA has multiple alternative education schools and/or programs, please combine all information on one survey.

Resources
Click here to open the Alternative Education Survey Guide
Alternative Education Transition Template

Cover Page

FY 2025 - Alternative Education Survey

Alternative Education Survey Contact Information
* Local Education Agency (LEA) Name
* LEA Alternative Education Coordinator Name
* LEA Alternative Education Contact Email Address
* LEA Alternative Education Contact Phone
* Select the option that best fits the LEA. The LEA provides alternative education services to students within the LEA only. The LEA provides alternative education services to students within the LEA as well as students from other LEAs. The LEA contracts with another LEA to provide alternative education services. The LEA is not required to provide alternative education services to students.

Resources
State Board of Education Rule 0520-01-02-.09
Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-6-3401
Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-6-3402
Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-6-3404
Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-6-3405
Tennessee Alternative Education Association
National Alternative Education Association

Resources
Click here to open the Alternative Education Survey Guide
Alternative Education Transition Template

Alt. Ed. Survey

FY 2025 - Alternative Education Survey

In accordance with Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-6-3402, Kindergarten students are not eligible for alternative school placement.

Alternative School/Program Name	School or Program	Principal/Program Coordinator Name	Is this person the principal?	Principal/Program Coordinator Email Address	Contact Number	Attendance at the alternative school/program is mandatory	Transportation is provided to the alternative school/program	Total Capacity	Number of certificated staff working in an alternative school/program during the 2024-25 school year	Number of non-certificated staff assigned to an alternative education setting during the 2024-25 school year	1st Grade Students Served	2nd Grade Students Served	3rd Grade Students Served	4th Grade Students Served	5th Grade Students Served	6th Grade Students Served	7th Grade Students Served	8th Grade Students Served	9th Grade Students Served	10th Grade Students Served	11th Grade Students Served	12th Grade Students Served
*	*Select... Program School	*	*Select... Yes No	*	*	*Select... Yes No	*Select... Yes No	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Grade Totals																						

Number of certificated staff working in an alternative school/program during the 2024-25 school year.	Number of non-certificated staff assigned to an alternative education setting during the 2024-25 school year.	Total number of classroom(s) serving alternative education students (Include schools and programs)	Total number of students served in grades 1-5 during the 2024-25 school year	Total number of students served in grades 6-8 during the 2024-25school year	Total number of students served in grades 9-12 during the 2024-25 school year	Number of students in grades 1-5 placed more than once during the 2024-25 school year	Number of students in grades 6-8 placed more than once during the 2024-25 school year	Number of students in grades 9-12 placed more than once during the 2024-25 school year	Average length of placement (stay) of students in grades 1-5 in an alternative setting (in days) during the 2024-25 school year	Average length of placement (stay) of students in grades 6-8 in an alternative setting (in days) during the 2024-25 school year	Average length of placement (stay) of students in grades 9-12 in an alternative setting (in days) during the 2024-25 school year	An alternative education advisory committee has been established at the LEA level.
*	*	*				*	*	*	*	*	*	*Select... Yes No

Primary Reason for Student Assignment
* Number of students placed in an alternative setting for zero-tolerance offenses during the 2024-25 school year.
* Number of students placed in an alternative setting for violation of school rules during the 2024-25 school year.
* Number of students placed in an alternative setting due to a need for an alternative education strategy during the 2024-25 school year.
* Please list any other reasons for placement into an alternative school setting during the 2024-25 school year.

Alternative School/Program Elements

Please choose Yes or No for the following elements in your program(s)/school(s).
* Afterschool or other extended day programming Select... Yes No
* Character education Select... Yes No
* College and career ready act Select... Yes No
* Credit recovery Select... Yes No
* Distance learning Select... Yes No
* Dropout prevention strategies Select... Yes No

Please choose Yes or No for the following elements in your program(s)/school(s).
* Individual and/or family counseling Select... Yes No
* Individual behavior plans Select... Yes No
* Individual learner plans Select... Yes No
* Juvenile court partnership Select... Yes No
* Life skills Select... Yes No
* Mental health partnership Select... Yes No
* Positive Behavior Intervention Supports (PBIS) Select... Yes No
* Restorative practices Select... Yes No
* Service learning Select... Yes No

Please choose Yes or No for the following elements in your program(s)/school(s).
* Student drug testing Select... Yes No
* Technology based instruction Select... Yes No
* Transitions services (a formal plan) *Mandated requirement under T.C.A. § 49-6-3402 Select... Yes No
* Use of level system that encourages appropriate behavior Select... Yes No

Number of Special Faculty/Staff Available to Serve the Alternative School/Program During School Year 2024-25

*Total Alternative Education Faculty/Staff Headcount
*Total Alternative Education Faculty/Staff FTE
Special Faculty/Staff Type
* Behavior Specialist
* English Language Learners (ELL) Teachers
* School Counselors
* School Resource Officers
* Social Workers
* Special Education Teachers
* Teaching Assistants
* Transition Counselor
Other

Additional Questions
* 1. Select the technical assistance opportunities that would be most helpful to you as an alternative educator. Select all that apply. Exemplary Practices Transitional Planning & Support Alternative Education Survey Digital & Virtual Learning Clear
* 2. Select the topics that present challenges for your alternative education school(s)/program(s)? Select all that apply. Budgeting Resources Staff (Hiring and Retention) Parent/Guardian involvement Climate and Culture Clear

Resources
Click here to open the Alternative Education Survey Guide
State Board of Education Rule 0520-01-02-.09
Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-6-3401
Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-6-3402
Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-6-3404
Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-6-3405
Tennessee Alternative Education Association
National Alternative Education Association
Alternative Education Transition Template

Related Documents

FY 2025 - Alternative Education Survey

Required Documents		
Type	**Document Template**	**Document/Link**
(Alt. Ed Survey) Blank Transition Plan [Upload at least 1 document(s)]	(Alt. Ed Survey) Blank Transition Plan Template	

Appendix B: LEA Alternative Education Coordinators as of June 30, 2025

SCHOOL LEA	PRINCIPAL/ PROGRAM COORDINATOR	E-MAIL ADDRESS
Achievement School District	Adrienne Alford	adrienne.alford@tn.gov
Alamo City School	Brooks Rawson	brooks.rawson@alamoschool.org
Alcoa City Schools	Tony Spears	tspears@alcoaschools.net
Alvin C. York Institute	Abbi Dunford	abbi.dunford@yaidragons.com
Anderson County Schools	Kim Towe	ktowe@acs.ac
Arlington Community Schools	Jeremy Yow	jeremy.yow@acsk-12.org
Athens City Schools	Dr. Trey Ivins	tivins@athensk8.net
Bartlett City Schools	Lakisha Howard	lhoward@bartlettschools.org
Bedford County Schools	Dr. Janolyn King	kingj2@bedfordk12tn.net
Bells City Schools	Wayne Parlow	booneparlow@bellscityschool.org
Benton County Schools	Randy Shannon	randy.shannon@bcos.org
Bledsoe County Schools	Jennifer Terry	jterry66@bledsoecountyschools.org
Blount County Schools	Tom Loud	tom.loud@blountk12.org
Bradford SSD	Dan Black	dblack@bradfordspecial.com
Bradley County Schools	Joanne Gott	jgott@bradleyschools.org
Bristol City Schools	Kristie Coleman	colemank@btcs.org
Campbell County Schools	Christopher Enix	christopher.enix@ccpstn.net
Cannon County Schools	Julie Vincent	julie.vincent@ccstn.net
Carroll County Schools	Stephanie Pearson	spearson@carrollschools.com
Carter County Schools	Danny McClain	dannymcclain@carterk12.net
Cheatham County Schools	Dr. Andrea Bringard	andrea.bringard@ccstn.org
Chester County Schools	Richard Wood	richard.wood@chestercountyschools.org
Claiborne County Schools	Heather Wallace	heather.wallace@claibornecsd.org
Clay County Schools	John Denton	dentonj@clayedu.com
Cleveland City Schools	Dr. Leneda Laing	llaing@clevelandschools.org

SCHOOL LEA	PRINCIPAL/ PROGRAM COORDINATOR	E-MAIL ADDRESS
Clinton City Schools	Karen Cupples	cupplesk@clintonschools.org
Cocke County Schools	Bryan Douglas	douglasb@cocke.k12.tn.us
Coffee County Schools	Jeff Johnson	johnsonj@k12coffee.net
Collierville Schools	Alyson Hamilton	ahamilton@colliervilleschools.org
Crockett County Schools	Jared Foust	jared.foust@crockettcavs.net
Cumberland County Schools	Justin Whittenbarger	whittenbarj@ccschools.k12tn.net
Davidson County Schools	Kristopher C Winfrey	kristopher.winfrey@mnps.org
Dayton City Schools	Cameron Burton	burtonca@daytoncity.net
Decatur County Schools	Steve Boggan	steve.boggan@decaturschools.org
DeKalb County Schools	Patrick Cripps	patrickcripps@dekalbschools.net
Department of Children's Services Education Division	Martina Stump	martina.e.stump@tn.gov
Dept. of Corrections	Sheena Hanserd	sheena.l.hanserd@tn.gov
Dickson County Schools	Joey Holley	rmason@dcstn.org
Dyer County Schools	Stephanie Johnson	sjohnson@dyercs.net
Dyersburg City Schools	Joanna Lamb	jlamb1@dyersburgcityschools.org
Elizabethton City Schools	Josh Boatman	josh.boatman@ecschools.net
Etowah City Schools	Jackie Martin	martinj@etowahcityschool.com
Fayette County Schools	Phyllis W. Taylor	phyllis.taylor@fcsk12.net
Fayetteville City Schools	Adam McCormick	mccormicka@fcsboe.org
Fentress County Schools	Marty Walker	marty.walker@fentressboe.com
Franklin County Schools	Dr. Roger Alsup	roger.alsup@fcstn.net
Franklin SSD	Mary Decker	deckermar@fssd.org
Germantown Municipal Schools	Chauncey Bland	chauncey.bland@gmsdk12.org
Gibson County SSD	Kevin Turner	turnerk@gcssd.org
Giles County Schools	David O'Connor	doconnor@gcboe.us
Grainger County Schools	Kip Combs	kcombs@gcs123.net
Greene County Schools	Michael Garland	mike.garland@gcstn.org
Greeneville City Schools	Ricky Witt	wittj@gcschools.net

SCHOOL LEA	PRINCIPAL/ PROGRAM COORDINATOR	E-MAIL ADDRESS
Grundy County Schools	Deidre Helton	dhelton@grundyk12.com
Hamblen County Schools	T.J. Sewell	sewellt@hcboe.net
Hamilton County Schools	Michael R. Calloway	Calloway_Michael@hcde.org
Hancock County Schools	Misty Rasnic	misty.rasnic@hcsk12.com
Hardeman County Schools	James Rutherford	rutherfordj1@hcsedu.org
Hardin County Schools	Jason Dennis	jason.dennis@hctnschools.com
Hawkins County Schools	Darbi OConnell	darbi.oconnell@hck12.net
Haywood County Schools	Keneal Odum	keneal.odum@hcsk12.net
Henderson County Schools	Dennis McDaniel	mcdaniel.dennis@hcschoolstn.org
Henry County Schools	Tim Mason	masont@henryk12.net
Hickman County Schools	Shelda Qualls	shelda.qualls@hickmank12.org
Hollow Rock – Bruceton SSD	Chris Finley	finleyc@hrbk12.org
Houston County Schools	Nicole Douglass	ndouglass@houstonk12tn.net
Humboldt City Schools	Anthony Ballard	anthony.ballard@hcsvikings.org
Humphreys County Schools	Emily Ballard	ballarde@hcss.org
Huntingdon SSD	Alan Eubanks	aeubanks@huntingdonschools.net
Jackson County Schools	Michael Todd Clinton	toddclinton@jacksoncoschools.com
Jefferson County Schools	Carrie Trent	ctrent@jcboe.net
Johnson City Schools	Holly English Corwin	CorwinH@jcschools.org
Johnson County Schools	Mark Hagaman	mhagaman@jocoed.net
Kingsport City Schools	Jim Nash	jnash@k12k.com
Knox County Schools	Ryan Siebe	ryan.siebe@knoxschools.org
Lake County Schools	Dr. Jamie Elliott	jamie.elliott@lcfalcons.net
Lakeland School System	Kathryn Pickens	kpickens@lakelandk12.org
Lauderdale County Schools	Billie Young	byoung@k12.lced.net
Lawrence County Schools	Evan White	evan.white@lcss.us
Lebanon SSD	Wallace Brummett	wallace.brummett@lssd.org
Lenoir City Schools	Charles Orr	corr@lenoircityschools.net
Lewis County Schools	Allen Trull	atrull@lewisk12.org

SCHOOL LEA	PRINCIPAL/ PROGRAM COORDINATOR	E-MAIL ADDRESS
Lexington City Schools	Julie Meyer	meyerj@caywood.org
Lincoln County Schools	Linda Tallman	ltallman@lcdoe.org
Loudon County Schools	Marvin Feezell	feezellm@loudoncounty.org
Macon County Schools	Michael Owens	owensm6@maconcountyschools.org
Madison County Schools	Seab Thomas	tsthomas@jmcss.org
Manchester City Schools	Mick Shuran	mshuran@k12mcs.net
Marion County Schools	Ramona McEntyre	rmcentyre@mctns.net
Marshall County Schools	Michelle Thammavongsa	michelle.thammavongsa@mcstn.net
Maryville City Schools	Kyle Harris	kyle.harris@maryville-schools.org
Maury County Schools	Jon-Micah Clanton	jclanton@mauryk12.org
McKenzie SSD	Justin Barden	bardenj@mckenzieschools.org
McMinn County Schools	James Gilbert	Jgilbert@mcminnschools.com
McNairy County Schools	Ricky Coffman	coffmanr@mcnairy.org
Meigs County Schools	Tad Roberts	tad@meigsboe.net
Milan SSD	Kevin Ellison	ellisonk@milanssd.org
Millington Municipal Schools	Mark Neal	mneal@millingtonschools.org
Monroe County Schools	Sarah Brown	browns@monroek12.org
Montgomery County Schools	Dr. Kim Sigears	kim.sigears@cmcss.net
Moore County Schools	Lashonda Hill	lashonda.hill@moorecountyschools.net
Morgan County Schools	Matthew Murphy	murphym@mcsed.net
Murfreesboro City Schools	Trey Duke	trey.duke@cityschools.net
Newport City Schools	Dustin Morrow	dustin.morrow@newportgrammar.org
Oak Ridge Schools	Christopher Scott	cscott@ortn.edu
Obion County Schools	George Leake	leakeg@ocboe.com
Oneida SSD	Heath Sexton	hsexton@oneidaschools.org
Overton County Schools	Kim Dillon	kimdillon@oc-sd.com
Paris SSD	Sherry Wagner	sherry.wagner@parisssd.org
Perry County Schools	Lindsey Ward	lward@perrycountyschools.us
Pickett County Schools	Diane Elder	diane.elder@pickettk12.net

SCHOOL LEA	PRINCIPAL/ PROGRAM COORDINATOR	E-MAIL ADDRESS
Polk County Schools	Frances Bramblett	fbramblett@polkcountyschools.com
Putnam County Schools	Ben Herron	herronb1@pcsstn.com
Rhea County Schools	Bryant Collins	collinsb@rheacounty.org
Richard City Schools	Reggie Culpepper	rculpepper@richardhardy.org
Roane County Schools	Chris Johnson	cbjohnson@roaneschools.com
Robertson County Schools	Teresa Leavitt	teresa.leavitt@rcstn.net
Rogersville City School	Lindsay Davenport	davenportl@rcschool.net
Rutherford County Schools	Tory Atwood	atwoodt@rcschools.net
Scott County Schools	Vince Owens	vince.owens@scottcounty.net
Sequatchie County Schools	Melissa Cordell	mcordell@sequatchie.k12.tn.us
Sevier County Schools	Tony Ogle	tonyogle@sevier.org
Shelby County Schools	Melita Thomas	thomasmn@scsk12.org
Smith County Schools	Donna Livingston	livingstond@smithcoedu.net
South Carroll Schools	Lisa Norris	lisa.norris@clarksburgschool.net
Stewart County Schools	Kyle Mallory	kylemallory@stewartcountyschools.org
Sullivan County Schools	Loren Mark Foster	mark.foster@sullivank12.net
Sumner County Schools	David W. Hallman	david.hallman@sumnerschools.org
Sweetwater City Schools	Nicki Nile	nicki.nile@scstn.net
TN Public Charter School Commission	Maggie Stampley	maggie.stampley@tn.gov
TN School for the Blind	Tammy Parsons	tammy.parsons@tsbtigers.org
TN School for the Deaf	Lisa Collins	l.collins@tsdeaf.org
Tipton County Schools	James Fields	jfields@tipton-county.com
Trenton SSD	Amy Allen	amy.allen@trentonssd.org
Trousdale County Schools	Dr. Clint A. Satterfield	clintsatterfield@tcschools.org
Tullahoma City Schools	April Norris	april.norris@tcsedu.net
Unicoi County Schools	Sherry Ray	rays@unicoischools.com
Union City Schools	Michael Paul Miller	millerm@ucboe.net
Union County Schools	Lauren Effler	lauren.effler@ucps.org

SCHOOL LEA	PRINCIPAL/ PROGRAM COORDINATOR	E-MAIL ADDRESS
University Schools	Mary Tucker	mhtucker@memphis.edu
Van Buren County Schools	Audra LeAnne Lewis	llewis@vanburenschools.org
Warren County Schools	Bryan Matheny	mathenyb@warrenschools.com
Washington County Schools	Jamie Gray	grayj3@wcde.org
Wayne County Schools	LaDonna Edwards	ladonna.edwards@waynetn.net
Weakley County Schools	Krystle Smith	krystle.smith@wcsk12tn.net
West Carroll SSD	Preston Caldwell	preston.caldwell@wcssd.org
West TN School for the Deaf	Lisa Collins	l.collins@tsdeaf.org
White County Schools	Bryan Haley	bryan.haley@whitecoschools.net
Williamson County Schools	Josiah Holland	josiah.holland@wcs.edu
Wilson County Schools	Shaun Caven	cavens@wcschools.com

Appendix C: Alternative School/Program Coordinators as of June 30, 2025

SCHOOL LEA	ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL/ PROGRAM NAME	PRINCIPAL/ PROGRAM COORDINATOR	E-MAIL ADDRESS
Alcoa City Schools	Pershing Academy of Learning	Tony Spears	tspears@alcoaschools.net
Alvin C. York Institute	YAI Alternative School	Abbi Dunford	abbi.dunford@yaidragons.com
Anderson County Schools	ACOLA	Jeff Harshbarger	jharshbarger@acs.ac
Anderson County Schools	Clinch River Community School	Darren Leach	dleach@acs.ac
Anderson County Schools	Middle School Online Program	Shawna Woodruff	swoodruff@acs.ac
Anderson County Schools	21st Century Program	Kim Towe	ktowe@acs.ac
Arlington Municipal School District	Alternative Education Program	Jeremy Yow	jeremy.you@acsk-12.org
Athens City Schools	Pathway School	Dr. Trey Ivins	tivins@athensk8.net
Bartlett Municipal School District	Bartlett Bridges	Lakisha Howard	lhoward@bartlettschools.org
Bedford County Schools	Bedford County Learning Academy	Dr. Janolyn King	Kingj2@bedfordk12tn.net
Benton County Schools	Benton County Alternative Program	Dr. Randy Shannon	randy.shannon@bcos.org
Bledsoe County Schools	Bledsoe County Schools Alternative Program	Jennifer Terry	jterry66@bledsoecountyschools.org
Blount County Schools	Samuel Everett School of Innovation/AIM Academy	Tom Loud	tom.loud@blountk12.org
Bradford SSD	Bradford High School Alternative School	Phillip Tyler	ptyler@bradfordspecial.com
Bradley County Schools	GOAL Academy	Joanne Gott	jgott@bradleyschools.org
Bristol City Schools	Viking Academy at Tennessee High School	Kelly Vance	vancek@btcs.org
Bristol City Schools	Tennessee Middle School	Luke Douthat	douthatl@btcs.org
Bristol City Schools	Fairmount Elementary ELC	Trey Arrington	arringtont@btcs.org
Campbell County Schools	East LaFollette Learning Academy	Harold Sanders	harold.sanders@ccpstn.net
Campbell County Schools	The Plus Academy	Karen Hendricks	Karen.hendricks@ccpstn.net

SCHOOL LEA	ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL/ PROGRAM NAME	PRINCIPAL/ PROGRAM COORDINATOR	E-MAIL ADDRESS
Cannon County Schools	Lion's Academy	Courtney Nichols	courtney.nichols@ccstn.net
Carroll County Schools	Carroll County Technical Center	Stephanie Pearson	spearson@carrollschools.com
Carter County Schools	Carter County Alternative School	Aaron Dugger	aarondugger@carterk12.net
Cheatham County Schools	Riverside Academy	Andrea N. Bringard, Ed. D	andrea.bringard@ccstn.org
Chester County Schools	North Chester Alternative School	Richard Wood	Richard.wood@chestercountyschools.org
Claiborne County Schools	Alternative Program Grades 7-12	Melissa Robbins	melissa.robbins@claibornecsd.org
Claiborne County Schools	Elementary Learning CT Grades 1-6	Heather Wallace	heather.wallace@claibornecsd.org
Clay County Schools	Clay County Alternative School	John Denton	dentonj@clayedu.com
Cleveland City Schools	Trauma and Behavior Classroom (TAB)	Dr. Danielle Scarth	dscarth@clevelandschools.org
Cleveland City Schools	Raider Blue Academy (CHS)	Dr. Eric Garner	egarner@clevelandschools.org
Cleveland City Schools	Raider Blue Academy (CMS)	Trey Stanford	tstanford@clevelandschools.org
Cocke County Schools	Gateway Programs	Bryan Douglas	douglasb@cocke.k12.tn.us
Coffee County Schools	Koss Center	Jeff Johnson	johnsonj@k12coffee.net
Collierville Schools	IMPACT Program	Alyson Hamilton	ahamilton@colliervilleschools.org
Crockett County Schools	Crockett County High School ALC	Tres Goldsby	tres.goldsby@crockettcavs.net
Crockett County Schools	Crockett County Middle School ALC	Floyd Rowe	floyd.rowe@crockettcavs.net
Cumberland County Schools	The Phoenix School	Mitch Lowe	mlowe@ccschools.k12tn.net
Davidson County Schools	Bass Learning Center	Henry Johnson	Henry.johnson@mnps.org
Davidson County Schools	Johnson Learning Center	Myron Franklin	myron.franklin@mnps.org
Dayton City Schools	Alternative/ISS	Cameron Burton	burtonca@datyoncity.net
Decatur County Schools	Decatur County Schools Alt	Steve Boggan	steve.boggan@decaturschools.org
Dekalb County Schools	Alternative Learning Center	Brad Hendrix	bradhendrix@dekalbschools.net
Dickson County Schools	New Directions Academy	Rhiannon Mason	rmason@dcstn.org

SCHOOL LEA	ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL/ PROGRAM NAME	PRINCIPAL/ PROGRAM COORDINATOR	E-MAIL ADDRESS
Dyer County Schools	Alternative Interim	Jermey Porter	jporter@dcchoctaws.net
Dyersburg City Schools	College Street Campus	Joanna Lamb	jlamb1@dyersburgcityschools.org
Elizabethton City Schools	Alternative School	Josh Boatman	Josh.boatman@ecschools.net
Etowah City Schools	Homebound/Virtual Learning	Jackie Martin	martinj@etowahcityschool.com
Fayette County Public Schools	JILC (Jefferson Innovative Learning Center)	Marcus Stokes	marcus.stokes@fcsk12.net
Fayetteville City Schools	FCS Alternative School	Adam McCormick	mccormicka@fcsboe.org
Fentress County Schools	Fentress County Alternative School	Marty Walker	marty.walker@fentressboe.com
Franklin County Schools	Franklin County Alternative School Program	Floyd Blackwell	floyd.blackwell@fcstn.net
Germantown Municipal Schools	The Pointe Alternative School Program	Marvin Townsend	marvin.townsend@gmsdk12.org
Gibson County SSD	Gibson Co High School	Brad Garner	garnerb@gcssd.org
Gibson County SSD	S Gibson Co High School	Brad Garner	garnerb@gcssd.org
Giles County Schools	Giles County Alternative Learning Program	David O'Connor	doconnor@gcboe.us
Grainger County Schools	Grainger County Alternative Center	Kip Combs	kcombs@gcs123.net
Greene County Schools	Glenwood Educational Center	Mike Garland	mike.garland@gcstn.org
Greeneville City Schools	Alternative Success Academy	Ricky Witt	wittj@gcschools.net
Grundy County Schools	Alternative School Program	Deidre Helton	dhelton@grundyk12.com
Hamblen County Schools	Miller Boyd	T.J. Sewell	sewellt@hcboe.net
Hamilton County Schools	Washington Alternative Learning Center	Michael Calloway	calloway_michael@hcde.org
Hancock County Schools	Hancock County Alternative School	Misty Rasnic	misty.rasnic@hcsk12.com
Hardeman County Schools	Hardeman County Learning Center	Mary Ann Polk	polkm2@hcsedu.org
Hardin County Schools	Hardin County Alternative School	Jason Dennis	jason.dennis@hctnschools.com
Hawkins County Schools	Pathways Alternative School	Darbi OConnell	darbi.oconnell@hck12.net
Haywood County Schools	Haywood County Schools Alternative Learning Center	Keneal Odum	keneal.odum@hcsk12.net

SCHOOL LEA	ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL/ PROGRAM NAME	PRINCIPAL/ PROGRAM COORDINATOR	E-MAIL ADDRESS
Henderson County Schools	Henderson County Juvenile Academy	Dennis McDaniel	mcdaniel.dennis@hcschoolstn.org
Henry County Schools	Henry County Alternative Learning Center	Tim Mason	masont@henryk12.net
Hickman County Schools	Hickman County Alternative Learning Center	Shelda Qualls	shelda.qualls@hickmank12.org
Houston County Schools	Houston County Alternative School	Jamie Bruce	brucej5@houstonk12tn.net
Humboldt City Schools	Humboldt Alternative Program	Anthony Ballard	anthony.ballard@hcsvings.org
Humphreys County Schools	Humphreys County Alternative School	Emily Ballard	ballarde@hcss.org
Jackson County	JCS Alternative School	Jason Brown	jasonbrown@jacksoncoschools.com
Jefferson County Schools	Jefferson Academy	Glen Wolfenbarger	gwolfenbarger@jcboe.net
Johnson City Schools	Topper Academy	Dr. Holly Corwin	corwinh@jcschools.org
Johnson County Schools	Extended Service Center	Stephen Long	slong@jocoed.net
Johnson County Schools	Longhorn Academy	Stephen Long	slong@jocoed.net
Kingsport City Schools	Cora Cox Academy	Will Cordell	wcordell@k12k.com
Kingsport City Schools	KCS Elementary Academy	Lindsay Statum	lstatum@k12k.com
Knox County Schools	Richard Yoakley School	Ashley Ketner	ashley.ketner@knoxschools.org
Knox County Schools	Ridgedale Alternative School	Donna Brunson	donna.brunson@knoxschools.org
Knox County Schools	Middle School Night Alternative Program	Thomas Watson	thomas.watson@knoxschools.org
Knox County Schools	High School Night Alternative Program	Thomas Watson	thomas.watson@knoxschools.org
Lake County Schools	Lake County Schools Alternative School	Dr. Jamie Elliott	jamie.elliott@lcfalcons.net
Lakeland School System	Lakeland School System Alternative School	Kim Pickens	kpickens@lakelandk12.org
Lauderdale County Schools	Alternative Learning Academy	Billie Young	byoung@mail.lced.net
Lawrence County Schools	Achievement Academy	Evan White	evan.white@lcss.us
Lawrence County Schools	Lawrence Adult High School	Evan White	evan.white@lcss.us
Lawrence County Schools	Stepping Stones Academy	Evan White	evan.white@lcss.us

SCHOOL LEA	ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL/ PROGRAM NAME	PRINCIPAL/ PROGRAM COORDINATOR	E-MAIL ADDRESS
Lebanon SSD	Alternative School Program (ASP)	Wallace Brummett	wallace.brummett@lssd.org
Lenoir City Schools	Lenoir City Night Alternative Program	Charles Orr	corr@lenoircityschools.net
Lewis County Schools	Lewis County Alternative Program	Allen Trull	atrull@lewisk12.org
Lincoln County Schools	Falcon Achievement Academy	Christy Wright	cwright@lcdoe.org
Loudon County Schools	Loudon County Alternative School	Marvin Feezell	feezellm@loudoncounty.org
Macon County Schools	Macon County ALC	Tracy Strong	strongt@maconcountyschools.org
Madison County Schools	Parkview Prep Academy	Donald Hornbuckle	drhornbuckle@jmcss.org
Manchester City Schools	Flight	Jim Dobson	jdobson@k12mcs.net
Marion County Schools	Central Prep Academy	Ramona McEntyre	rmcentyre@mctns.net
Marshall County Schools	Marshall County Alternative Learning Center	Michelle Thammavongsa	michelle.thammavongsa@mcstn.net
Maryville City Schools	Maryville Academy	Kyle Harris	kyle.harris@maryville-schools.org
Maury County Schools	Horace O. Porter School	Dedra Dawson	dawsond@mauryk12.org
McKenzie SSD	McKenzie Middle ISS	Dorethea Royle	royled@mckenzieschools.org
McKenzie SSD	McKenzie High ISS	Kelly Spivey	spiveyk@mckenzieschools.org
McKenzie SSD	McKenzie Elementary ISS	Tonya Brown	brownt10@mckenzieschools.org
McMinn County Schools	AIM Program	James Gilbert	jgilbert@mcminnschools.com
McNairy County Schools	McNairy County Alternative School	Ricky Coffman	coffmanr@mcnairy.org
Meigs County Schools	Meigs County High School Alternative Program	John Grissom	johngrissom@meigsgschool.net
Meigs County Schools	Meigs County Middle School Alternative Program	Robbie Cornelius	robbiecornelius@meigsgschool.net
Milan SSD	Milan Alternative Education	Kevin Ellison	ellisonk@milanssd.org
Millington Municipal Schools	Millington Central Middle High Alternative School	Michael Perry	mperry@millingtonschools.org
Monroe County Schools	Monroe County Alternative School	Sarah Brown	browns@monroek12.org
Montgomery County Schools	CMCSS Alternative School	Dr. Kim Sigears	kim.sigears@cmcss.net

SCHOOL LEA	ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL/ PROGRAM NAME	PRINCIPAL/ PROGRAM COORDINATOR	E-MAIL ADDRESS
Moore County Schools	Raider Academy	Lashonda Hill	lashonda.hill@moorecountyschools.net
Morgan County Schools	Morgan County Schools Alternative 1-8 at Coalfield	Tim Hines	hinest@mcsed.net
Morgan County Schools	Morgan County Schools 9-12 Alternative at Wartburg	Jason Davis	davisj@mcsed.net
Newport City Schools	Restorative Learning Classroom	Dustin Morrow	dustin.morrow@newportgrammar.org
Oak Ridge City Schools	Secret City Academy	Christopher Scott	cscott@ortn.edu
Obion County Schools	Obion County Central High School Alternative	Sharia Armour	sarmour@ocboe.com
Obion County Schools	South Fulton Middle/High School Alternative Program	Cheryl King-Ogg	ckingogg@ocboe.com
Oneida SSD	Indian Pathways	Stacy Love	stacylove@oneidaschools.org
Overton County Schools	Reach Academy	Kim Dillon	kimdillon@oc-sd.com
Paris SSD	PSSD Alternative School	Jason Scarbrough	jason.scarbrough@parisssd.org
Perry County Schools	Perry County Alternative School	Lindsey Ward	lward@perrycountyschools.us
Pickett County Schools	Pickett County Alternative School Program	Mitch Buckman	mitch.buckman@pickettk12.net
Polk County Schools	Crossroads	Robbie Combs	rcombs@polkcountyschools.com
Putnam County Schools	White Plans Academy	Ben Herron	herronb1@pcsstn.com
Rhea County Schools	Rhea County Alternative School	Bryant Collins	collinsb@rheacounty.org
Richard City Schools	PBIS	Reggie Culpepper	rculpepper@richardhardy.org
Roane County Schools	Midtown Education Center	Chris Johnson	cbjohnson@roaneschools.com
Robertson County Schools	Robertson County Phoenix Academy	Mary Jo Holmes	maryjo.holmes@rcstn.net
Rogersville City School	RCS Alternative Education	David Hartsook	hartsookd@rcschool.net
Rutherford County Schools	Smyrna West Alternative School	Jennifer Smith	smithje@rcschools.net
Rutherford County Schools	Daniel McKee Alternative School	Nicole Stirbens	nstirbensn@rcschools.net
Rutherford County Schools	Westbrooks Woods Alternative	Dawn Poole	pooled@rcschools.net
Rutherford County Schools	Simon Springs Community School	Samantha Wagner	wagners@rcschools.net

SCHOOL LEA	ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL/ PROGRAM NAME	PRINCIPAL/ PROGRAM COORDINATOR	E-MAIL ADDRESS
Scott County Schools	Scott County Alternative Learning Center	Jared York	jared.york@scottcounty.net
Scott County Schools	PEAK Academy	Maria Bruce	maria.bruce @scottcounty.net
Sequatchie County Schools	Sequatchie County Alternative School	Briana Mallet	bmallet@sequatchie.k12.tn.us
Sevier County Schools	Greenbriar Alternative School	Kevin Hurst	kevinhurst@sevier.org
Sevier County Schools	Parkway Academy	Russell Allen	russellallen@sevier.org
Shelby County Schools	G.W. Carver College and Career Academy	Dr. James Suggs	suggsj@scsk12.org
Shelby County Schools	Gordon Achievement Academy	Brandon Moore	moorebm@scsk12.org
Shelby County Schools	Hope Academy	Roger Jones	jonesrf@scsk12.org
Shelby County Schools	Ida B. Wells Academy	Tarcia Gilliam	gilliamtr@scsk12.org
Shelby County Schools	Northeast Prep Academy	Kenneth Dickerson	dickersonka@scsk12.org
Shelby County Schools	Invictus Academy at Airways	Dr. Soya Moore	moores2@scsk12.org
Shelby County Schools	Norris Achievement Academy	Wanda Cooper	copperwh@scsk12.org
Shelby County Schools	Newcomer International Center	Gabreila Toro	torog@scsk12.org
Shelby County Schools	Pursuit Center	Toria Brown	browntt3@scsk12.org
Shelby County Schools	Youth Advocacy Program	Ebony Suggs	suggsej@scsk12.org
Smith County Schools	Smith County Alternative School/Program	Donna Livingston	livingstond@smithcoedu.net
Stewart County	Alternative Learning Center	Kyle Mallory	kylemallory@stewartcountyschools.org
Sullivan County Schools	Sullivan County Alternative Learning Center	Justin Hilton	justin.hilton@sullivank12.net
Sumner County Schools	R. T. Fisher School	David Kinman	david.kinman@sumnerschools.org
Sweetwater City Schools	Sweetwater City Schools Alternative Program	Nicki Nile	nicki.nile@scstn.net
Tipton County Schools	Alternative Learning Center	Cetrice Bounds	cbounds@tipton-county.com
Trenton SSD	TSSD Alternative School	Tab Vowell	tab.vowell@trentonssd.org
Trenton SSD	TES Behavior Classroom	Paul Pillow	paul.pillow@trentonssd.org
Trenton SSD	TRMS In-School Suspension	Cortnee Wilkes	cortnee.wilkes@trentonssd.org

SCHOOL LEA	ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL/ PROGRAM NAME	PRINCIPAL/ PROGRAM COORDINATOR	E-MAIL ADDRESS
Trenton SSD	TRMS Alternative School	Cortnee Wilkes	cortnee.wilkes@trentonssd.org
Trenton SSD	PHS In-School Suspension	Jake Ramsey	Jake.ramsey@trentonssd.org
Trousdale County Schools	Jim Satterfield Middle School	Landon Gulley	landongulley@tcschools.org
Tullahoma City Schools	Alternative Learning Center	Dr. Chris Treadway	chris.treadway@tcsedu.net
Union City Schools	Union City Alternative ISS	Shane Sisco	siscos@ucboe.net
Union County Schools	Union County Alternative Learning Center	Victor H. Price II	pricev@ucps.org
Union County Schools	Elem/Middle Alternative Center	Laura Jones	laura.jones@ucps.org
University Schools	University Schools	Mary Tucker	mhtucker@memphis.edu
Van Buren County Schools	Van Buren County Alternative Program	Audra LeAnne Lewis	llewis@vanburenschools.org
Warren County Schools	Warren County Alternative Academy	Bryan Matheny	mathenyb@warrenschools.com
Washington County Schools	Washington County Alternative School	Jamie Gray	grayj3@wcde.org
Wayne County Schools	Wayne County Alternative Education Program	Ladonna Edwards	ladonna.edwards@waynetn.net
Weakley County Schools	Weakley County Alternative Program	Krystle Smith	krystle.smith@wcsk12tn.net
White County Schools	White County Alternative Program K-5	Bryan Haley	bryan.haley@whitecoschools.net
White County Schools	White County Alternative Program 6-12	Bryan Haley	bryan.haley@whitecoschools.net
Williamson County Schools	Alternative Learning Center	Josiah Holland	josiah.holland@wcs.edu
Wilson County Schools	Barry Tatum Academy	Shaun Caven	cavens@wcschools.com

Appendix D: Responses from LEAs from the 2024-25 School Year

LEAs were asked to select the technical assistance that would be most helpful to them in their alternative education school/program. The results are outlined below in Figure 4. LEAs were asked to select topics that present the greatest challenges in their alternative education school/program for the Tennessee General Assembly. The results are outlined below in Figure 5. The responses shed light on the challenges these schools/programs face in meeting the needs of students in an alternative setting.

Figure 4: Which technical assistance opportunities would be most helpful to you as an alternative educator?

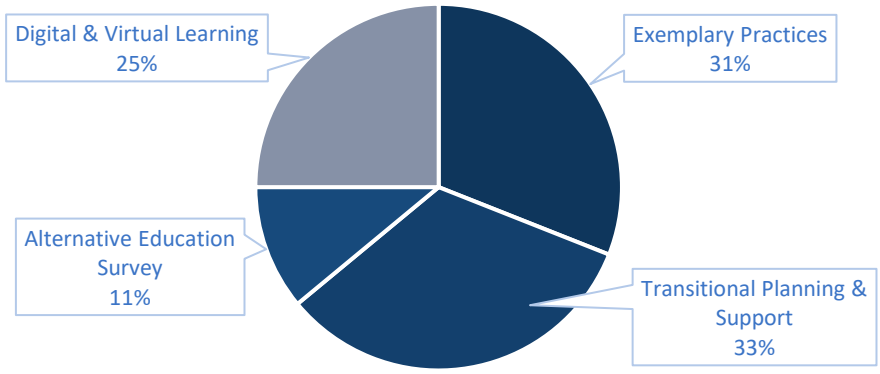
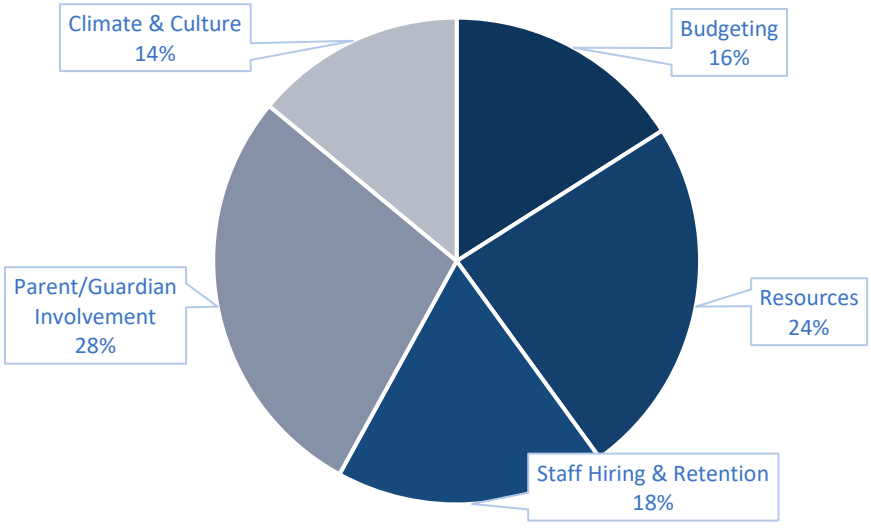


Figure 5: Which topics present challenges for your alternative school(s)/program(s)?



Appendix E: 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* LEAs make alternative schools available (Comptroller of the Treasury, 2005, p. 3).

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 (Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-6-3402). 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 (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 No. 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.

In 2006, the General Assembly amended Tenn. Code Ann. § 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.

Chapter 517 of the Public Acts of 2007 mandated a transition plan for students entering and leaving an alternative education setting and established greater accountability measures, including monitoring students' academic and behavioral progress. Chapter 320 of the Public Acts of 2007 required that the Advisory Council for Alternative Education study issues relating to the establishment of pilot alternative school programs. Chapter 455 of the Public Acts of 2007 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 *Model Standards for Alternative Education*. 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 council hosted the first annual Student Discipline and Alternative Education Institute. Over 300 educators attended the first institute.

In October 2009, the council joined the National Alternative Education Association (NAEA) for the first-ever southeastern regional summit on alternative education. At this conference, the council explored best practices and national trends and allowed alternative educators 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, including 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.

During the 2017–18 school year, the department, in partnership with the Governor's Advisory Council for Alternative Education and the Tennessee Alternative Education Association, established the ***Exemplary Practices in Alternative Education Recognition Program*** to recognize the efforts of districts that exemplify high-quality alternative education programs that utilize the state board's exemplary practices for alternative education.

Upon submission of an application, a team comprised of members from the department, the alternative education advisory board, and 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. Upon completion of the site visit, the Governor's Advisory Council met to discuss the district applications and select those schools/programs deemed exemplary. The schools/programs were recognized at the state level in April 2018. The following schools were recognized as exemplary: Richard Yoakley Alternative School, G.W. Carver College and Career Academy, and Jefferson Academy. During the 2018–19 school year, the following schools were recognized as exemplary: Bartlett Bridges Alternative School, Gordon K-8 Achievement Academy, Ridgedale Alternative School, and Clinch River Community School.

On March 13, 2020, Governor Bill Lee urged schools to close due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Across the state, school closures continued through the remainder of the 2019–20 school year. As a result, the council was unable to conduct site visits and was unable to complete the process of identifying recipients for recognition. The council postponed the recognition program for the 2020–21 school year. To continue to support alternative schools, and in lieu of an exemplary program, the advisory council offered virtual training and networking opportunities for educators in alternative settings within each state region.

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, LEAs shifted between virtual and in-person learning in the 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 2020–21 showed a significant decline in participation in alternative education programs across the state.

In February 2024, the State Board of Education's Alternative Education Programs Policy 2.302 was repealed. Language previously contained in this policy was incorporated into the Alternative Education Rule that was approved at the November 3, 2023, State Board of Education Meeting. The policy was repealed because its requirements were duplicative of the requirements outlined in the Alternative Education Rule 0520-01-02-.09.