



Tennessee Department of Education
Division of Federal Programs and Oversight
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Annual Alternative Education Report (2024-25 School Year)

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Dr. Karen Ball, Council Member
Lee Farris, Council Member
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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 \(tn.gov\)](https://www.tn.gov/alternative-education).

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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.

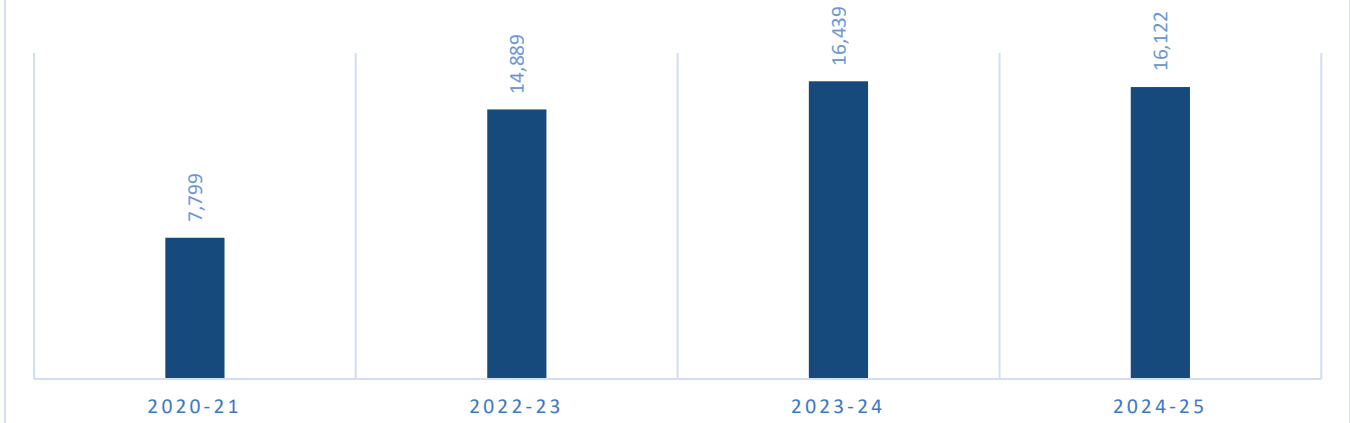
Table 1: 2024-25 Alternative Education Survey Summary

| | 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 |

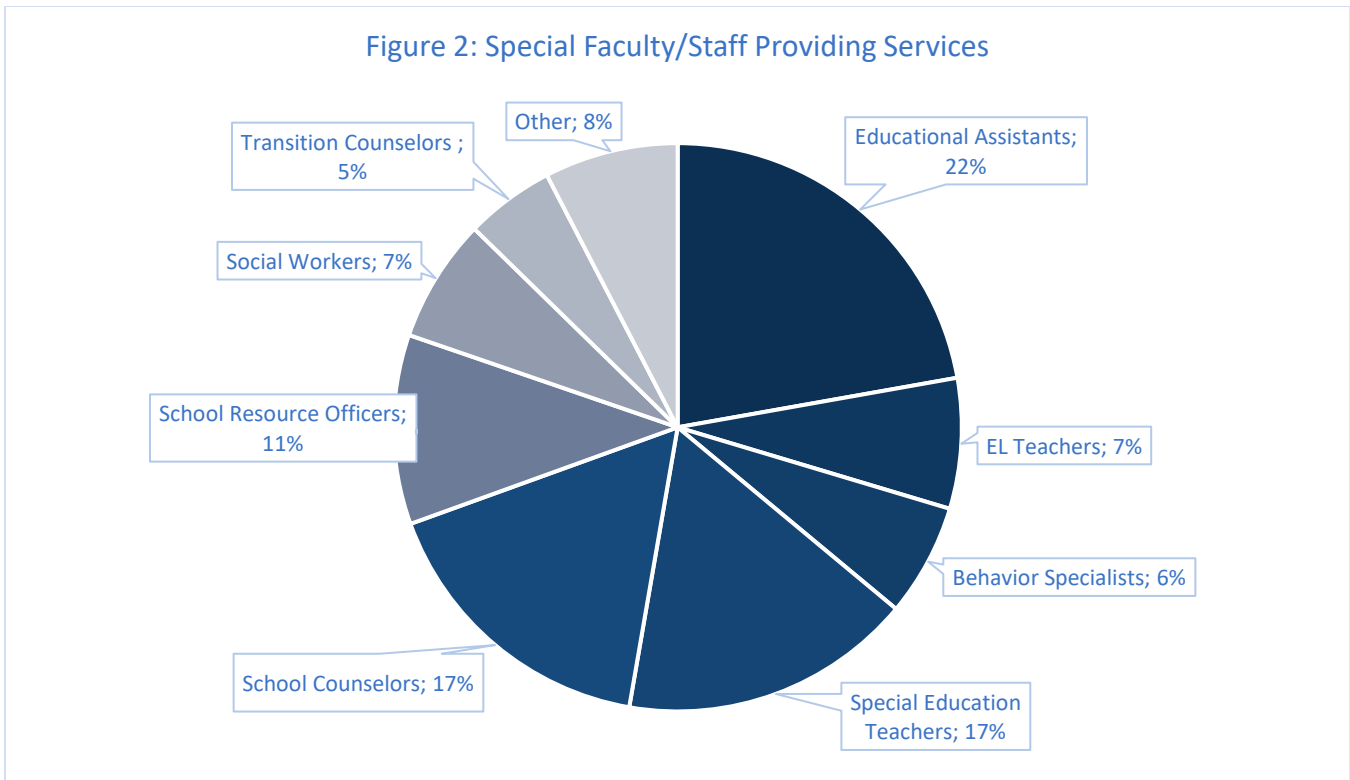
| | 1-5 | 6-8 | 9-12 |
|--|---------|---------|---------|
| Number of students served | 787 | 4,896 | 10,439 |
| Average length of placement | 44 days | 57 days | 61 days |
| Number of students placed more than once | 118 | 588 | 772 |

Figure 1: Number of Students Served in Alternative Settings

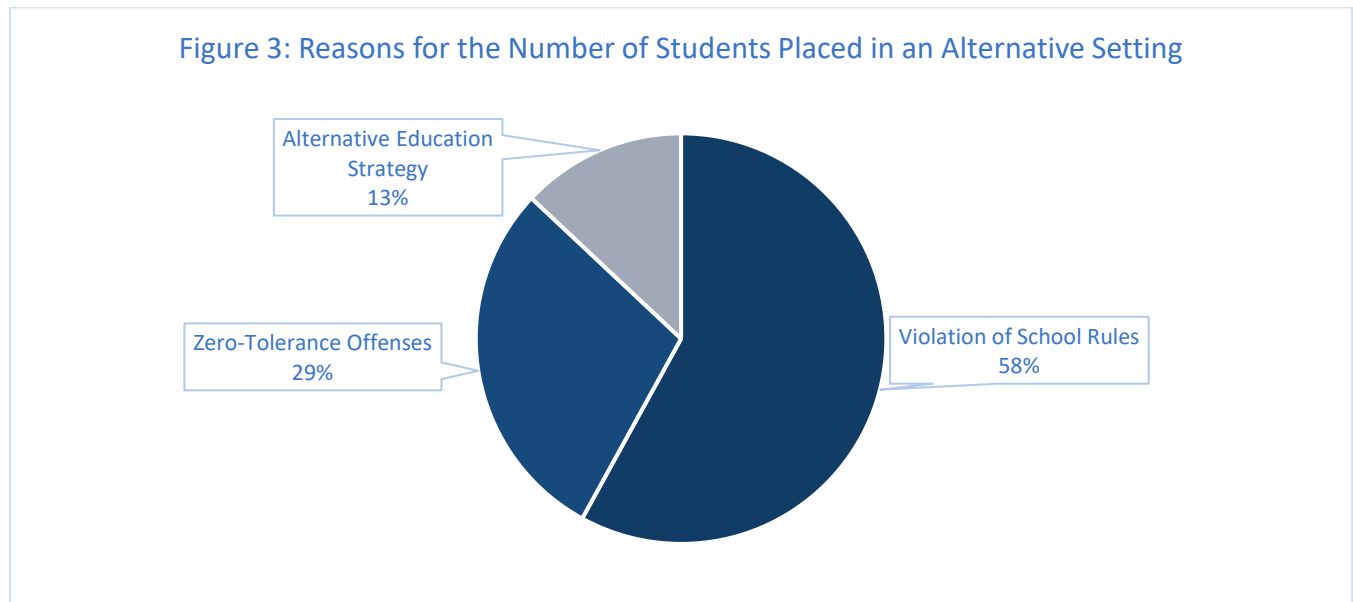


LEAs were asked to distinguish between the various types of professionals providing services to students in alternative schools or programs. Statewide, there were **958** certificated staff and **534** non-certificated staff serving students. Of those staff, **263** were certified special education teachers, 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.



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 | |
| 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 2024-25 school 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 | ygott@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@crockettccavs.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@ecschoools.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 | tstthomas@jmcass.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 |
| Mauzy County Schools | Jon-Micah Clanton | jclanton@mauryk12.org |
| McKenzie SSD | Justin Barden | bardenj@mckenzie-schools.org |
| McMinn County Schools | James Gilbert | kgilbert@mcminn-schools.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@parissd.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@wcassd.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 | ygott@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 | spears@carrollschoos.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 | Jermeý Porter | jporter@dcchoctaws.net |
| Dyersburg City Schools | College Street Campus | Joanna Lamb | jlamb1@dyersburgcityschools.org |
| Elizabethton City Schools | Alternative School | Josh Boatman | Josh.boatman@ecschoools.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 | kgilbert@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 |
| Tulahoma 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?

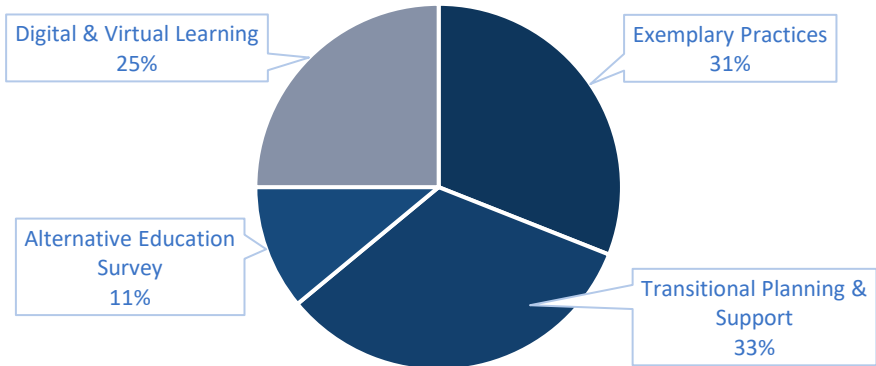
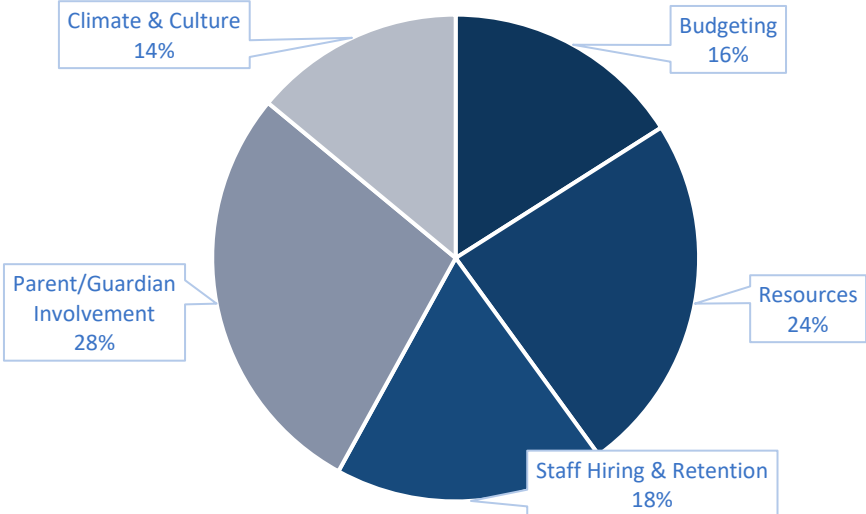


Figure 5: Which topics present challenges for your alternative school(s)/program(s)?



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](#).