Alternative Education

Board of Education Presentation
Management Oversight Report
July 28, 2009
• CMS created discipline alternative learning programs during the early 1970s to educate students who have been removed from traditional school settings due to violations of the Code of Student Conduct

• There were six alternative-learning program sites for middle and high school students

• In 2001-2002, the School Board voted to merge the six programs, creating Derita Alternative School

• Derita Alternative School was restructured and renamed Turning Point Academy in 2008-2009
• Turning Point aims to meet the educational needs of at-risk students through:
  - therapeutic intervention services
  - behavior and academic intervention
  - prevention opportunities

• The school’s mission is to redirect student behavior through programs that focus on academic achievement, self-esteem, responsibility, leadership and community service
• Turning Point students must meet goals in the following areas before returning to their home schools:

- behavior
- attendance
- academics
- attitude
• Federal
  - No Child Left Behind (NCLB)
  - Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)
• State
  - 115C-105.47 A Proposals to Establish Alternative Learning Programs or Alternative Schools
  - 115C-12 (24) Powers and Duties of the Board Generally
  - 115C-288 Powers and Duties
  - 115C-378 Compulsory Attendance
  - 115C-391 Corporal Punishment, Suspension, or Expulsion of Pupils
• CMS Board of Education Regulations
  – JKD Suspension, Exclusion and Expulsion
  – JKD-R Suspension, Exclusion and Expulsion
  – JKDA-R Suspension and/or Placement in an Interim Alternative Educational Setting of Disabled Students
• The Alternative Education and Safe Schools Department’s budget is composed of federal, state and local funding. The following amounts do not include staff salaries and benefits.

  – Alternative to Suspension Program Budget - $65,272 (local and state funding)
  – Substance Abuse Prevention/Intervention Programs - $61,111 (local and state funding)
  – Safe Schools Programs – $27,732 (state funding)
  – Alternative Education and Safe Schools department - $211,737 (local and state funding)
  – Drug-Free Schools Project- $54,671 (federal)
  – Drug-Free Schools Project Grant - $167,157 (federal)

TOTAL FUNDING: $587,680
TOTAL POSITIONS: 88.5
• Turning Point’s budget is comprised of the following:

- State funding: *$7,224
- Local funding: *$43,392.50
- Total = $50,616.50

- Total positions: 45.5

*These amounts do not include staff salaries and benefits.
• **Alternative Education and Safe Schools’ challenges:**
  – Reduction in staffing
  – Insufficient programs to address substance abuse issues and criminal/at-risk behaviors

• **Turning Point challenges:**
  – Students enroll each week, which makes it difficult for teachers to follow the pacing guides
  – Large number of Exceptional Children students
  – No baseline data (start from scratch each year)
  – Poor student attendance
Student goals include:

- Improving academic achievement
- Modifying behavior
- Returning to home school
• **Right Choices** – a six-week program that provides constructive intervention and early support for mostly middle and high school students who violate the *Code of Student Conduct*.

• **Long-Term Alternative to Suspension** – a 30-day program that provides a structured environment with an emphasis on academic achievement and behavior management.

• **Jail North** – a partnership with the Mecklenburg County Sheriff’s Department designed for 16- and 17-year-old male students who are found guilty of breaking the law.
• Jail Central – a joint effort with the Sheriff’s Department designed for male students ages 16 and 17 who have been adjudicated by the county court system for violating the law

• McLeod Program – a comprehensive educational intervention for students in grades six through 12 with drug addictions. Students receive substance abuse treatment and academic lessons.

• Short-Term Alternative to Suspension – a program that provides a safe, structured environment for students suspended for 1-10 days
• Probationary Program – supports students who violate the *Code of Student Conduct* and have been assigned probation

• Criminal Watch Program – a partnership with law enforcement and court services. CMS is notified when students age 16 or older are arrested for a felony.
Turning Point Initiatives

- Comprehensive Counseling Program
- No Easy Walk Gang Prevention/Leadership Program
- Service Learning Program
- Future Seekers Program
- Leap Program
- Character Counts ISS (Improving Student Stability in the classroom) Program
- Parent Volunteering/Participation Program
- Burch Buck Incentive Program
- Mentoring Program
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Number of Students Enrolled</th>
<th>Number of Students Successfully Completed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Right Choices Program</td>
<td>380</td>
<td>325</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30-Day Alternative to Suspension Program</td>
<td>430</td>
<td>398</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jail North Program</td>
<td>260</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jail Central Program *</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gatling Detention Center Program **</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McLeod Program</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1-10 Day Alternative to Suspension Program</td>
<td>2,717</td>
<td>2,680</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Jail Central Program was launched in Spring 2009.  *
Gatling Closed during the Spring of 2009.  **
Progress at Turning Point

• Increased school-performance composite score to 23.6 from 16.6
• Increased number of community partnerships from 4 to 28
• Increased number of parent-involvement opportunities from 4 (mandatory meetings) to 17
• Implemented opportunities for character-building (motivational speakers, mentors, service learning, field trips, incentive activities, leadership/social-skills building)
• Decreased number of student suspensions from 1,284 to 836 (a 35-percent reduction)
• 58 students (out of 252 who enrolled) successfully completed program
• Design and implement a new **alternative learning program** for designated students removed from a regular-school program due to felony or violent misdemeanor charges and/or convictions.

• Assess each alternative learning program and implement changes, as needed.

• Provide ongoing in-service for staff in alternative learning programs in the areas of classroom management, teaching strategies, conflict resolution, de-escalation techniques, etc.
Questions & Answers