Summary of Proposed Revisions to BESE Bulletin 131 - Alternative Education (AE)

Scope of Problem: More than 18,000 students are enrolled in one of Louisiana's alternative education schools or programs because of suspension or expulsion from their tradition school. Students attending these sites are not receiving appropriate and effective interventions and supports to address the root cause of their exit from the traditional school. There are disproportional referrals to these sites for African-American male students. Students attending AE schools are five times more likely to drop out of school compared to students in traditional schools.

Administrators and staff require the support, resources and training to facilitate appropriate workforce planning, professional development and collaboration. Students require access to curriculum and instruction that is fully aligned to state standards, rigorous, inclusive and individualized to meet the needs of all learners.

Policy Recommendations: The following recommendations seek to address the aforementioned problems.

AE Area of Practice	Overview of Proposed Content
AE Purpose, Definition and Requirements	• Provide an overview and definition for AE schools and programs, including student eligibility, site specifications, duration of services, and type of services. o AE Schools will operate as a separate facility with a unique site code. Schools will serve students who are suspended or expelled for a minimum of one semester or longer, as well as students who select an alternative learning environment to complete their education. o AE programs will operate in affiliation with a tradition school and be housed on the site of a traditional school (i.e. program within a school).
AE Administrators and Educators	• Provide guidance to AE administrators and staff regarding workforce planning, selection and use of high quality curriculum and assessments, professional development and collaboration, and school and student goal planning.
Learning Environment	• Provides guidance to schools and programs regarding establishing climate and culture, and the need for collaboration among students, parent/guardians and staffs.

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AE Area of Practice	Overview of Proposed Content
Curriculum and Instruction	• Provides guidance regarding an in-person meeting with parent/guardian, student and staff to develop a learning plan that details a student's services (academic, behavioral, and CTE). • Provides guidance regarding the required use of curriculum and assessments fully aligned to state standards. • Provides guidelines regarding the use of online education, along with face-to-face instruction, to ensure high quality instruction.
Transition and Placement Process	• Provides guidance regarding requirements for a formal and comprehensive transition process when a student enters and exits an AE school or program. • Provides guidance regarding the requirement for AE schools to follow the suspension/expulsion process of the traditional school.
Service Provider Collaboration	• Provides guidance regarding the need to partner with community based organizations and/or third party providers for services that are beyond the capacity and/or expertise of school site or district staff.
Data Collection and Analysis	• Provides guidance regarding the requirement to collect and submit to LDOE timely and accurate program and school data, including but not limited to enrollment, services provided, assessments, and evaluation. • Provides guidance regarding the purpose and components of the LDOE annual AE report submitted to BESE