

Louisiana Believes

2020-2021 Alternative Education Site Authorization

Objectives

- Describe the goals of Alternative Education (AE) Redesign
- Build knowledge of the AE Redesign core components and guiding principles
- Share the AE authorization and site approval process

Agenda

- AE Redesign Background and Context
- AE Site Core Components and Policy
- 2020-2021 AE Site Authorization Process and Timeline
- Questions and Answers

AE Redesign Background and Context

AE Background and Context

- Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) convened an AE Study Group in Spring 2017 to explore current practice and educational services provided in alternative schools and programs.
- The Study Group charge was to:
 - Conduct a strategic assessment of current practice and policy;
 - Identify support services and guiding principles available to AE students, educators, and families; and
 - Explore partnerships to enhance and expand the effectiveness of AE.

Alternative Education Redesign Alignment to State Statutes & ESSA

- The guiding principles of the study group's report align to current state statutes for AE schools and programs:
 - R.S. 17:252 – behavior and mental health interventions; data reporting
 - R.S. 17.416.2 – academic, behavioral, and mental health interventions
 - R.S. 17:221.4 – dropout prevention
- The study group also anticipated ESSA, which provides an opportunity to
 - Reconsider the evaluation and performance reporting on alternative schools; and
 - Leverage federal funds to support school systems in their implementation of strong AE redesign plans.

Alternative Education Study Group

The study group report, issued Oct. 2017, provided guiding principles for redesign.

LDOE should prioritize:

- **Appropriate accountability** for AE services and enhanced data reporting by school systems
- Providing **best practice guidance** around effective behavioral intervention
- Opportunities for **high quality professional development** to address comprehensive academic, behavioral and social/emotional needs of students
- Building **communities of support** for educators, students and families

School Systems should prioritize:

- **Effective discipline practice** at the sending school
- Provision of **transitional processes** and supports to AE
- Implementation of academic and behavioral **interventions** to address the students' underlying issues
- **Support services**, as well as core academic and career readiness opportunities for students receiving AE services

AE Site Core Components and Policy

AE Policy Promoting High-Quality Services

Improving AE required substantive policy revisions.

- BESE approved revisions to AE policy, [Bulletin 131](#), in October 2018 to align to the guiding principles of the study group report.
- Policy revisions required a new authorization process to ensure all students have access to high quality services and supports.
 - Transitional Planning and Support
 - Student Learning Plan
 - Behavior Intervention
 - Academic Intervention
 - Specialized Staff Support
 - Educator Engagement

AE Site Core Components

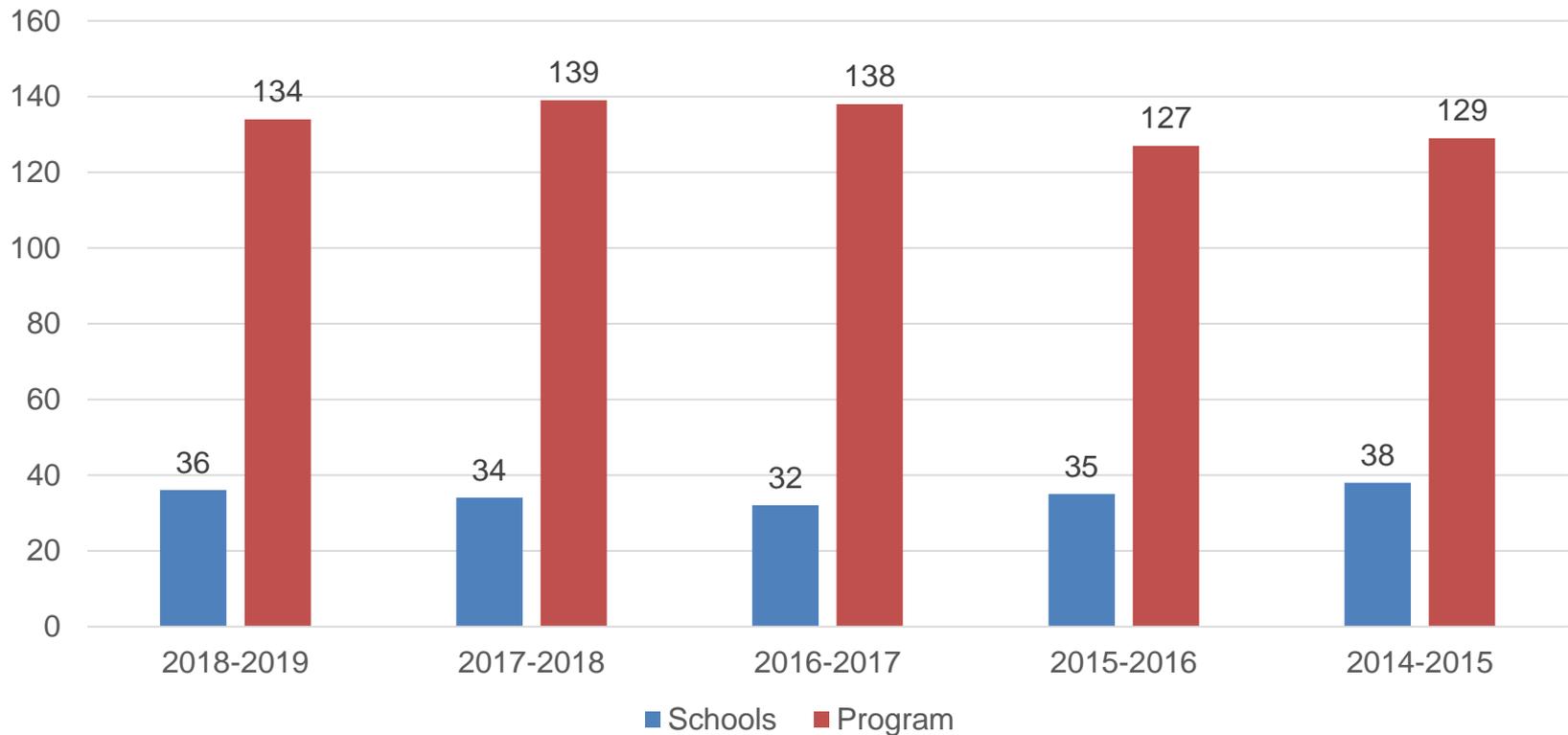
The new authorization process prioritizes school systems providing a comprehensive AE site plan that aligns to state statute:

- **Transitional Planning & Support** – to identify a structure that allows AE sites to receive information from the sending school to support timely student evaluation and planning
- **Behavior Intervention** – to ensure students access evidence based interventions targeting the underlying cause of referral to AE site
- **Academic Intervention and Student Learning Plan** – to ensure students have access to appropriate courses and interventions that lead to academic progress
- **Specialized Staff Support** – to identify specialized staffing able to meet the unique needs of students and provide a Professional Development Plan.
- **Educator Engagement** – to ensure educators access professional development that supports the needs of the targeted student population

Annual BESE Approval of AE Sites

In 2019-2020, there were 125 programs and 34 schools providing AE services.

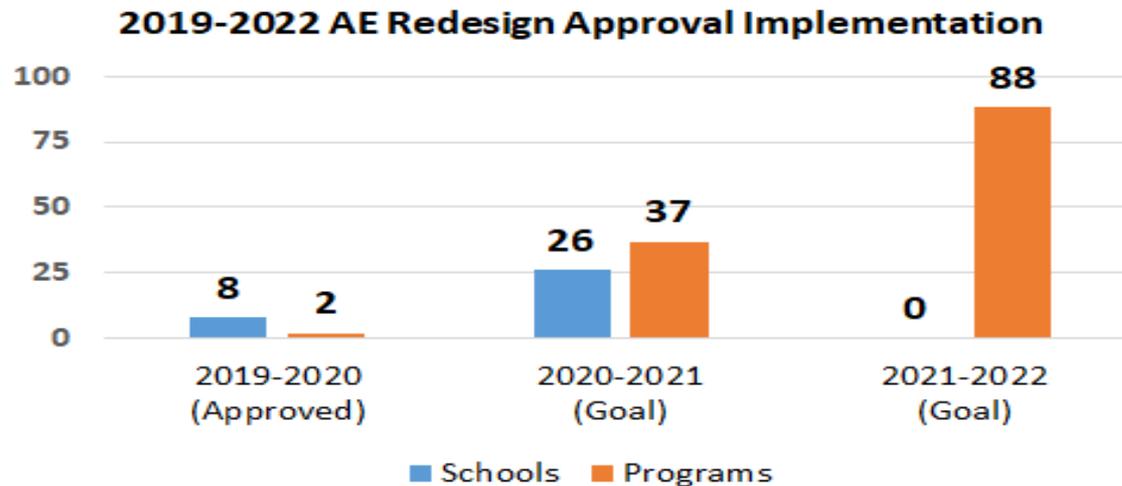
5 Year Trend of School and Program Approval



AE Site Authorization Approval Implementation

A new authorization process was implemented in 2018-2019 and provides three years for all school systems to achieve full AE redesign implementation.

- Year 1 (2019-2020): BESE approved 10 pioneering AE sites under new authorization.
- Year 2 (2020-2021): All remaining AE schools and 30% of AE programs seek approval using new authorization process.
- Year 3 (2021-2022): All AE schools and programs will submit using the new process.



** Annual implementation plan is based on 2019-2020 BESE approved schools and programs.*

2020-2021 AE Authorization Process and Timeline

AE Authorization Process and Timeline

Activity	Date
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New AE Application released for all school systems to seek authorization, based on one of the following conditions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A NEW Alternative Education site ○ A change to an existing Alternative Education site ○ Verification of an existing Alternative Education site (no intent to make changes to site) 	February 4, 2020
LDOE hosts information webinar on new AE authorization process	February 12, 2020 3:00pm -4:00pm February 13, 2020 9:00am-10:00am
All Applications and school system confirmations due	March 3, 2020
AE Site Interviews with LDOE	March 12-13, 2020
BESE Meeting for Approval of AE Site List	April 21, 2020

AE Authorization Process Resources

[AE Authorization Application](#)

[AE Authorization Guidance Document](#)

[AE Professional Development Template](#)

[AE Application Rubric](#)

Question & Answers

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