

## **Braxton County Board of Education Alternative Education Program**

### **Purpose:**

The Braxton County Board of Education recognizes that traditional school programs may not be appropriate for all students. Some students may need special programs to help them overcome attendance, academic, peer relationship issues, and/or behavioral problems. The Braxton County Alternative Education Program (AEP) is intended to be a temporary method of providing educational and social development for students where disruptive behavior and probability of failure require that they be removed from the traditional classroom setting.

The AEP program strives to meet the educational needs of disruptive or struggling students through alternative programs. The Board may offer counseling services with school counselors, and/or Southern Education Cooperative staff when appropriate. Schools shall make it a priority to recommend intervention strategies for these behaviors which may include agencies outside of the school system.

### **Program Structure**

Students may be placed in the AEP program at Braxton County High School or another location as determined by the Superintendent. The Superintendent, in consultation with school and AEP staff, shall consider the students age, maturity level, and potential for success in determining which location is in the best interest of the student for placement. At the direction of the Superintendent, virtual or home instruction may be offered to students in lieu of placement in the AEP program pursuant to WVBE Policy 2510.

The same content standards used in the public school system are used in the AEP program for all students. Content is taught through blended learning with face-to-face instruction and/or grade specific on-line instruction which follow traditional semester scheduling. In addition, the AEP program shall include instruction that teaches student the principles of good citizenship and personal responsibility.

Students placed in the AEP program will receive instruction five days per week, for the full school day. The Board shall provide transportation to AEP programs for qualifying students.

Students will be awarded credit when appropriate work has been completed satisfactorily as reported by the instructor. Credits will be awarded in required subjects such as English, science, social studies, and mathematics. Satisfactory attendance and behavior are considered requirements of the program.

Program evaluation will be assessed by academic progress, attendance, completion of assigned work, behavior, and number of students graduating.

### **Goals of the Program**

The AEP program shall:

- Prepare the student for transition back into regular classroom.
- Prepare students for success in the traditional school setting.

- Encourage students to be good citizens of their school community and society.
- Assist the student in completion of regular high school graduation requirements and awarding of a regular high school or equivalency diploma when appropriate.
- Provide educational service to keep such students on track while instilling discipline, respect, confidence, and leadership.

### **Eligibility**

Students are considered eligible for placement in the AEP program for the following: violations of the Productive and Safe Schools Act (WV Code 18A-5-1a) in accordance with the provisions of the Act:

- Violations of WVBE Policy 4373 for use of narcotics or alcohol.
- repeated violations of the Board's discipline policy following documented multiple Student Assistance Team (SAT) Meetings and Functional Behavior Assessment /Behavior Intervention Plans (FBA/BIP) for Braxton County Procedures by the Student Assistance Team at the referring school.
- continuation of educational services during periods of suspension, expulsion, or deferred expulsion; and or
- lack of academic success.

### **Student Responsibilities**

Students shall comply with all state and Board policies and AEP program rules. Furthermore, students on a deferred expulsion shall abide by the terms of the deferment imposed by the Superintendent.

Students will strive to become good citizens of their school community, demonstrate appropriate behavior, and respect for authority, and strive to be successful academically. Students shall attend school regularly and not have unexcused absence while participating in the AEP program.

Students may return to the regular classroom setting by exhibiting good behavior, completing their assignments on time, have passing grades, pass drug tests when required, and a recommendation by the support team.

Students who are placed in AEP for the use of a dab pen, vape pen or any device that vaporizes cannabis concentrates or any illegal substance will be required to pass three consecutive drug tests, 30 days apart, before returning to their school. The Superintendent shall obtain the necessary permissions from the parent or guardian. Students who refuse to submit to drug screenings shall be removed from the AEP program. The Superintendent or AEP designee shall have the discretion to reduce the number of required drug screenings.

Students who are not successful academically or behaviorally in this program and continue to violate Board policies may risk having a juvenile petition filed in circuit court.

### **Severability:**

If any provision of this policy or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of this policy.

Legal	W.Va. Code 18-5-19 WVDE Policy 4373 Expected Behaviors in Schools WVDE Policy 2419 Regulations for the Education of Students with Exceptionalities WVDE Policy 2510 Assuring the Quality of Education: Regulations for Education Programs
Effective Date	2/7/2024
Last Revised	9/18/2000, 8/19/2002, 9/27/2010, 8/1/2017, 3/1/2020, 2/6/2024