

Mission Statement:

Recognizing that individual students' needs vary greatly--not only academically but also in terms of interests, learning styles, personal difficulties, and schedules--our mission as an alternative program is to facilitate student initiated lifelong learning through customized instruction.

Belief Statements:

- Individual students' needs vary greatly
- Students have different learning styles
- Some students need flexible scheduling
- Students need to learn to make choices for themselves
- Learning is lifelong
- Instruction needs to be individualized
- Time is a resource we provide

Entrance Criteria:

Students must be referred by their home school counselors, and meet the State Learner at Risk criteria.

Referral/Enrollment Process:

Students must meet the State Learner at Risk criteria. Counselor of referring school must fill out referral packet. Students are accepted as they are referred if there is space available. If no space is available, they are placed on a waiting list.

Description of Academic Program:

The Minnesota Graduation Standards are embedded in the curriculum. Students receive instruction in 3 different ways:

- 1.) Individualized Instruction - student and teacher work together (one-on-one) on selected course work tailored to the student's academic needs and interests.
- 2.) Focus Group Instruction - students concentrate on particular topics or issues facilitated by two or more instructors from different disciplines. These groups last from 1-4 weeks.
- 3.) Seminar Groups - students choose from regularly scheduled group meetings to discuss and learn about specific issues in a subject area.

Description of School to Work Component:

PACE has two employability skills instructors who facilitate school-to-work components. These include, but are not limited to all school career days, job shadowing, employment skills seminar, field trips, guest speakers and career exploration.

Description of Personal Support Services:

- 1.) Advisor/Advisee Arrangement - each student in PACE will have an advisor. The advisor monitors student progress and is instrumental in initiating student-parent home contacts.
- 2.) Chemical Support Group - available to recovering students. It meets every Thursday.
- 3.) Guidance Counselors - provide academic planning, personal counseling and referrals to outside agencies.

Description of Cooperation with Other Agencies:

Verification of attendance/production criteria to meet agency requirements, probation agreements, and custody issues are provided. Referrals are made when appropriate.

PACE Program Schedule:

8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. (Monday-Thursday)

8:00 a.m. -12:00 p.m. (Friday)

Parent Involvement:

Parents/guardians are encouraged to call an advisor or counselor whenever questions arise. Four evenings each year are set aside for parent-student-teacher conferences. Parents are contacted regularly throughout the school year.

Exit Criteria:

Students eighteen years of age or older are dropped from PACE when efforts to engage them in learning have failed.

Examples of Additional Opportunities with PACE and Instructional Group Experiences:

Extensions of individualized instructional experiences:

Language Arts Film Study

Video Production

Employment Skills Groups

TAPP Groups

Parent Are Teachers

Science Labs

Job Fairs

Health Labs

Junior Sampler Days-St. Cloud Technical College

Optimists Essay Contest

American History Film Study

Internet Research

Math Groups

Parenting Groups

Special Education Groups

Americorps

Microsoft Office Instruction

Computer programs for instruction

Power Point Activities

Tech Prep classes available

Focus Group Activities:

One to four week commitment to daily attendance

Multi-disciplinary/team teaching

Credit negotiated across curriculum areas

Packaging to meet new graduation standards

Limited enrollment (15 students) guided by issues of equal opportunity, credit needs, "mix"

Focus Group Examples:

Healthy Heart

Crime Science

He Said/She

Quilt Making

Newsletter

Independent Living

Orienteering

Said Ecology

Stock Market

Youth Service Activities:

Mayor's Task Force

Food Shelf

Public Speaking

Soil/Water

MN Association of Alternative Programs

Participation

Toys for Tots

Elementary Classroom Aide

Mississippi River Clean-up

Testing Painting-YMCA