

St. Cloud Second Look Program
ALC Wilson Building
809 12th Street North, St. Cloud, MN 56303

Mission Statement:

The Area Learning Center's Second Look Program is designed to give alternative students the opportunity to learn and succeed by providing an atmosphere, which makes them feel safe and wanted. It also teaches them the importance of interpersonal relationships and communication, as well as self-esteem, positive self-worth and respect for others.

Belief Statements:

- Alternative students can learn and succeed
- Alternative students are in a transitional period of their lives in which they face new challenges
- Alternative students can learn effectively in heterogeneous groups
- Alternative students should have an opportunity to explore and participate regardless of their personal limitations
- Learning is a shared responsibility among students, parents, and staff
- Parent involvement is an essential element in student success

Entrance Criteria:

Students must be 16 years old and willing to commit to regular attendance, and meet the state defined qualifying at-risk criteria.

- Performs substantially below the performance level for pupils of the same age in a locally determined achievement test; or
- Is at least one year behind in satisfactorily completing coursework or obtaining credits for graduation; or
- Is pregnant or is a parent; or
- Has been assessed as chemically dependent; or
- Has been excluded or expelled according to sections 127.26 to 127.39; or
- Has been referred by a school district* for enrollment in an eligible program or a program pursuant to section 126.23 Renumbered 124D.69; or
- Is a victim of physical or sexual abuse; or
- Has experienced mental health problems; or
- Has experienced homelessness sometime within six months before requesting transfer to an eligible program; or
- Speaks English as a second language or has limited English proficiency; or
- Has withdrawn from school or has been chronically truant

Referral/Enrollment Process:

Students are enrolled during the school year and are referred by Building Placement Units or Special Education Staffing groups and are placed according to program openings. Students and parents are given information regarding the program format and requirements. Districts other than 742 refer students using a similar procedure.

Description of Academic Program:

Second Look is a program of scheduled classes Monday through Friday using a curriculum consisting of both required and elective classes that guide students toward the ultimate goal of graduation. This is delivered in a classroom with smaller than traditional staff to student ratio and with great consideration being given to learning styles and individual academic needs. Curriculum is differentiated to meet the variety of learning needs and styles in our diverse student population. Remediation is offered to students with specific learning needs and challenges.

Description of School to Work Component:

The program involves the integration of traditional studies combined with work experience, job shadowing and service learning. Students are given the opportunity to apply the skills learned in the workplace.

Description of Youth Service Component:

The Second Look Program has an on-going youth service program with the VA Medical Center. Students decorate a variety of settings throughout the hospital for a minimum of eight holidays during the school year. They also play games and bingo with the Day Activity Center patients. This encourages community involvement as well as the positive self-worth and respect for others that comes from volunteerism. A variety of other experiences are offered to students throughout the year focusing on needs in the community.

Description of Personal Support Services:

The Second Look Program works closely with our students, and our support staff and will provide services deemed appropriate. This may include contact with home base advocates, teaching staff, school psychologist, chemical health coordinator and/or any outside agencies that will benefit our students. We also believe that students must learn to deal with a variety of conflicts during their school careers, and will support whatever approach works best for its resolution.

Description of Cooperation With Other Agencies:

Students at the Area Learning Center are often involved with a number of outside resources. We hope to integrate all of these to best serve the whole child. We encourage open communication with all agencies working on our students' behalf.

Parent Involvement:

Greater parent involvement is an indispensable component of the vision for Second Look. Parents need to be involved in their child's education from the early childhood years through high school, because they hold the key to the successful learning development of their children. Weekly letters are provided by the staff to keep parents informed of student behavior and academic progress.

Exit Criteria:

Students may be transferred to another program if their attendance, classroom production or ability to get along with classmates makes it impossible to remain with us. This will be done with the student's best interest in mind and only after all program options have been explored.