

National Dropout Prevention Center/Network - Model Programs

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Model Programs

Academy of Creative Education

3736 Perrin Central, Building 2

San Antonio, TX 78209

<http://www.neisd.net/ace>

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Contact Information:

Dr. Mary Jo McLaughlin, Ph.D.

Principal, Academy of Creative Education

210.657.8970

mmclau@neisd.net

Program Specification:

Emphasis: Prevention Intervention Recovery/Retrieval	Gender: Both	Rating: Strong Evidence of Effectiveness
Age/Grade Level: High School	Target Settings: Urban	Target Groups: Individuals
Ethnicity: All Ethnicities	Other Participation Criteria: Completer Program, 16 credits	

Description:

The Academy of Creative Education (ACE) is a nationally recognized non-traditional non-punitive model high school that provides at-risk youth with varied options and opportunities to successfully graduate. Since 1991 (ACE) has assisted over 3,600 high school students in graduating. Educators use innovative teaching models and strategies and place each student on an academic plan designed to meet his/her individual learning style, with flexible hours allowing students to meet the demands of their employment, teen-parenting, etc. Unique graduation requirements include: taking a cap and gown photo on the first day enrolled, completing community service hours, writing a personal mission statement and student testimonial, completing a student exit survey, writing a resume, completing scholarship applications, and participating in a student-led conference with two faculty members of their choice. The Academy Advisory Corporate Council (AACC) is a non-profit community supported organization that assists ACE with students, staff and program needs. Through mentoring and sponsorships, AACC members teach ACE students character development, civic responsibility and community involvement. ACE students graduate, continue their education and become productive citizens - they are empowered to become tomorrow's thinkers, problem-solvers and leaders.

Program Descriptors Include:

Academic Improvement, Alternative Education, Community Collaboration, Counseling/Advisories/Coaches, Credit Recovery, Extended-School/Summer Program, Family/Parental Involvement, Mentoring/Tutoring, Professional Development, Study Skills, Teen Pregnancy, Life Skills Training

Starting Date: 1991

Students Served Per Year: 250-500

Last Verified: 2009

Risk Factors:

Program addresses the following:

Individual factors

- High number of work hours
- Parenthood
- High-risk peer group
- High-risk social behavior
- Highly socially active outside of school
- Retention/overage for grade
- Poor attendance

Family factors

- Low socioeconomic status
- High family mobility
- Low education level of parents
- Large number of siblings

Protective Factors:

Program promotes the following:

Relationships

- Presence and involvement of caring, supportive adults
- Opportunities and rewards for pro-social involvement
- Clear social norms
- Good relationships with parents, peers, and teachers
- Involvement with positive peer activities
- Perception of support from adults and peers

Independence

- Healthy/conventional beliefs and standards
- Positive/resilient temperament

Competence

- Social competencies
- Self efficacy

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Not living with both natural parents ● Family disruption ● Sibling(s) has dropped out ● Low contact with school <p>School factors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● School size: too small/too large ● School math achievement ● School policies and practices ● Student engagement <p>Community factors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Family composition/socioeconomic status ● Local labor market/neighborhood stability ● Youth social attitudes 	<p>Creativity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Problem-solving skills ● Flexibility <p>Optimism</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● High expectations by community, family, school, and self ● Optimistic
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Program Resources:

Annual Cost:

The annual cost of the program is over \$500,000 or over \$2000 per student.

Funding Sources Include:

Federal Agencies
 State Agencies
 Local/City/County Agencies
 School Districts
 Foundations
 Donations
 Organizations/Agencies

Program Staff Includes:

Counselors
 Volunteers
 Graduation Coaches
 Parents
 School Administrators

Materials Used:

Media/CD/DVD
 Instructional Texts/Manuals
 Computer/Internet Based

Supporting / Partner Organizations:

Academy Advisory Corporate Council, Valero Energy Foundation, Tesoro Energy Foundation, Alamo Heights Rotary Club, Stone Oak Rotary Club, Brackenridge Foundation, Time Warner Cable

Evaluation Information:

Since its doors opened in 1991 the Academy of Creative Education has assisted over 3,600 high school students formerly at risk of dropping out in successfully graduating from high school. Base indicators used for alternative accountability ratings include the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills passing rate, dropout rate and student attendance. Performance objectives aligned with the special circumstances and population of the non-traditional campus are submitted for review. During 2008 the dropout rate was 0.3% and daily attendance was 92.5%. This exceptional data was obtained by offering an individualized, self-paced curriculum and one-on-one teacher driven assessments. Flexible hours, an extended year academic calendar, and two annual graduations allow students to meet their academic requirements while providing the necessary time for employment and/or personal family needs. As part of their graduation requirements students prepare a personal testimonial describing the impact the program had on them, and must also complete a student exit survey. The testimonials are presented at respective graduations and results of the student exit surveys are printed in the annual year end report.

How evaluation data was collected:

Data collected and analyzed at school/district level
 Data collected and analyzed at state or organizational level

National Dropout Prevention Center/Network

Clemson University, 209 Martin Street
 Clemson, SC 29631-1555
 864.656.2599
 Fax: 864.656.0136
 E-mail: ndpc@clemson.edu

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