

ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL (EFFECTIVE FALL 2024)

This alternative school setting is designed to be a short-term placement to serve secondary students who are at-risk or are experiencing social-emotional, transitional, behavioral, or environmental problems that are impacting their ability to focus on their academic success. The focus of this program is to provide a temporary, short-term, supportive environment in which students can successfully work towards earning academic credits.

Staff

Principal

General Education Teacher

Special Education Teacher

Para-professional

Student Placement

Students are assigned to the Lee County Learning Center (LC2) only by the Director of Student Services. Recommendations may be made for placement consideration by any secondary school principal. Upon recommendation by the school principal, a disciplinary hearing will be scheduled by the Director of Student Services within a reasonable time frame (ideally no longer than five business days) upon receipt of the recommendation. Hearings will be conducted in the New Perspectives annex of the Lee County Board of Education office (2410 Society Hill Road; Opelika AL 36804). At the hearing, the school representative will be present to share all evidence supporting an alternative school placement. The student and parent/guardian will also be present to hear the allegations being made, as well as to present any statements in opposition to the recommended placement. The Director of Student Services will serve as the system hearing officer and be responsible for the final decision. Discipline hearings are not dialogues between parties. School representatives will present factual evidence. Student/Parent/Guardian may present statements in support of placement, in opposition to placement, or on behalf of the student. The family may be represented by counsel at this hearing, but will be required to notify the Director of Student Services 48-hours in advance if this is the case. No appeal process will exist beyond the Director of Student Services for alternative school placement.

Initial alternative school placements at the Lee County Learning Center may be up to 45 school days. If a student transfers into the Lee County School System while serving in an alternative program at another system/school, he/she will serve the number of days assigned by the previous school system in the Lee County Learning Center. Any student entering the Lee County School System with an excessive discipline record, previous violations of a serious nature, or returning from a treatment/juvenile facility/DYS may be subject to having a probationary period of 20 to 45 days in alternative school as determined by the Director of Student Services.

If a student receives special education services, LC2 placement will be addressed in his/her IEP. A special education student's IEP will be implemented at LC2. All special education students will have a transition plan implemented to facilitate smooth re-entry into the regular school program.

Students assigned to LC2 may not attend/participate in extracurricular activities and are prohibited from entering any other Lee County Schools campus until the alternative placement has been completed. Students in alternative school may not be transported by a Lee County School bus to or from school with the exception of the Loachapoka school zone. Parents will be responsible for providing transportation for the student for the duration of the LC2 placement. The total number of days assigned by the Director of Student Services must be completed before an exit conference may be held. Partial days due to check-out or late arrival do not count as time toward completing alternative school assignments. The LC2 principal has the discretion to either award successful or unsuccessful days based on the actions of the student each day. If successful, then that day will be subtracted from the overall total of days required; however, if unsuccessful, the student and parent will be notified that an additional day will be added. If the student continues to have unsuccessful days, then the Director of Student Services has the authorization to amend the placement and recommend the student be expelled (expulsion procedures must then be followed).

Before returning to a home-base school, satisfactory progress and completion of assigned time must be presented at an exit conference. Exit conferences will be held at the Lee County Learning Center with a minimum participation of student, parent/guardian, Lee County Learning Center principal, and Director of Student Services. Following the exit conference, the student and the parent must attend a readmittance meeting with the school Principal to discuss expectations.

*NOTE: Students reentering the local school will be placed on a 6-week probation period. If behavior, attendance, or grades suffer during the probation period, the student may be replaced at the alternative school for an additional 20 days.

Goals of Lee County Learning Center

1. To provide the opportunity for a student to complete his/her education
2. To foster maximum positive changes in attitude and behavior
3. To assist local school administrators by providing options for student discipline

Curriculum

The student will remain in courses that are already scheduled to be taken to the extent possible. The majority of academic work will be completed online using Edgenuity course options. Supplemental work may be assigned by Lee County Learning School instructors. The LC2 principal will be responsible for following the Lee County Schools posted pacing guides to assign appropriate Edgenuity objectives for the duration of the student placement. Other online resources may be used as approved by the Director of Student Services when the Edgenuity course is not available. This may include ACCESS, ALEX resources, or other ALSDE-approved material for covering the course of study objectives. Satisfactory academic progress is a requirement for exiting the alternative school program.

Safety Expectations

Any person entering the Lee County Learning Center may be subject to metal detection screening and searches. All vehicles on the premises may be subject to searches at the discretion of the principal and without warning. All Lee County Schools Code of Conduct Expectations will be strictly enforced. Any violation of the Code of Conduct will carry consequences. Consequential dispositions are limited as a placement in the Lee County Learning Center alternative school program is a final option before student expulsion. Hours of operation will be from 8:00 am - 2:00 pm CST each day. Students will not be allowed to report to the Alternative School location any sooner than 10 minutes early and must be picked up no later than 10 minutes after dismissal time.