

Port Angeles School District
Alternative Learning Experience Program Report
2006-07 School Year
August 13, 2007

BACKGROUND

Alternative learning experiences (ALE) are learning experiences for public school students that are primarily characterized by learning activities that occur away from the regular public school classroom setting. The specific requirements and expectations of these away-from-school learning activities are detailed in a written student learning plan (WSLP) and developed and supervised by a public school teacher.

Two programs offer alternative learning experiences in the Port Angeles School District, Parents as Partners and Lincoln High School. Parents as Partners offers alternative learning experiences primarily to students in grades K-8, but has accepted high school students on an individual basis. These students are reported as a part of Lincoln High School enrollment. Lincoln High School also offers alternative learning experiences in the form of contracts and NovaNet, an on-line learning program. These ALE programs work well for those students who cannot attend school on a regular basis. However, the majority of Lincoln High School students attend school for a minimum of five (5) hours per day and consequently are not served through a written student learning plan.

SCHOOL DISTRICT OFFICIAL RESPONSIBLE

Mrs. Cindy Crumb, principal of Lincoln High School, is the district official responsible for alternative learning experience programs. Mrs. Crumb approves specific alternative learning experience programs and courses, monitors compliance with WAC 392-121-182, and annually reports such progress to the school district board of directors. This annual report documents the required information to be reported to the board of directors.

DOCUMENTATION OF STUDENT HEADCOUNT AND FTE REPORTING

A full-time equivalent (FTE) student is enrolled for at least 25 hours of instruction in a week. FTE is calculated based on the estimated weekly hours in the learning plan. Partial FTE is a percentage or ratio determined by the number of hours in the learning plan of a part-time student divided by 25. For example, a student plan that estimates 5 hours per week would qualify as .2 FTE ($5 \div 25 = .2$).

Headcount refers to the number of individual students enrolled during a month, irrespective of the number of hours for which they were enrolled. During 2006-07, Parents as Partners reported a K-8 average headcount of 17; Lincoln High School reported an average monthly headcount of 11 students on Alternative Learning Experience contracts for grades 9-12. The annual average FTEs reported K-8 were 12.55. The annual average FTEs reported at Lincoln High School were 9.6. Lincoln High School reported sixty-one Alternative Learning Experience contracts for the 2006-07 school year.

CERTIFIED AND CLASSIFIED STAFF

Direct personal contact with students is conducted or supervised by certificated staff. Tutoring, supervision of test taking, and correction of student work may be done by classified staff. Parents as Partners is assigned 1.0 full-time certificated teacher. Lincoln High School assigns one period of Alternative Learning Experience responsibility to each of the five certificated teachers, for a total of 1.0 full-time equivalent teacher (each period is counted as .2 of a full-time equivalent teacher).

The ratio of certificated instructional staff to full-time equivalent students at Parents as Partners was 1:12.55 in 2006-07. The ratio of certificated instructional staff to full-time equivalent students at Lincoln High School was 1:9.6.

WRITTEN STUDENT LEARNING PLANS

A WSLP is in place for each ALE student on or before the first count date following the student's enrollment date.

All required components are included in each WSLP.

1. Beginning and ending date
2. Estimate of hours per week engaged in learning activities
3. Description of how weekly contact requirements will be met
4. List of essential instructional materials
5. Description of timeline and methods for evaluating student progress
6. Identification of whether the WSLP meets one or more of EALRs, grade level expectations, or other district benchmarks
7. For high school, identification of whether this plan meets stated and district graduation requirements

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES FOR STUDENT ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

Every WSLP will identify whether the alternative learning plan meets one or more of the state essential learning requirements and/or any other academic goals, objectives and learning requirements defined by the Port Angeles School District. Students will participate in state and district assessments whenever appropriate. Student performance will be evaluated by certificated staff through a variety of methods, including, but not limited to: testing, discussion, review of written assignments, projects, and presentations.

Student performance will be recorded using the following:

1. A record of performance on the learning activities described in the alternative learning experience plan and the assessments completed.
2. A log of student contact with district staff.

3. A copy of the students' written weekly statement of hours engaged in planned learning activities while not in the presence of district staff. This statement will be signed by the parent, guardian, or person designated in the alternative learning experience plan.
4. Students are expected to participate in all assessments required by the state of Washington and/or the Port Angeles School District. Statutory exemptions as outlined in home-based education and private school laws may apply to certain individuals; however it is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to provide proof of exemption.

PROGRAM EVALUATIONS

Parents as Partners' School Improvement Plan and the Lincoln High School Continuous School Improvement Plan (CSIP) are used to evaluate the alternative learning experience programs and written student learning plans. The improvement plans may be found on the Port Angeles School District web site at www.portangelesschools.org/schools/index.html.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Additional information about the district's alternative learning experience program may be obtained by calling Lincoln High School at 360.452.9502 or Parents as Partners at 360.417.3779.