

FACT: 1 IN 5 CHILDREN AGES 13-18 HAVE, OR WILL HAVE A SERIOUS MENTAL ILLNESS.



IMPACT:

50% 50% OF ALL LIFETIME CASES OF MENTAL ILLNESS BEGIN BY AGE 14 AND 75% BY AGE 24.

10 yrs. THE AVERAGE DELAY BETWEEN ONSET OF SYMPTOMS AND INTERVENTION IS 8-10 YEARS.

50% APPROXIMATELY 50% OF STUDENTS AGE 14 AND OLDER WITH A MENTAL ILLNESS DROP OUT OF HIGH SCHOOL.

70% 70% OF YOUTH IN STATE AND LOCAL JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEMS HAVE A MENTAL ILLNESS.

SUICIDE:

2nd SUICIDE IS THE 2ND LEADING CAUSE OF DEATH IN YOUTH AGES 10-24.

90% 90% OF THOSE WHO DIED BY SUICIDE HAD AN UNDERLYING MENTAL ILLNESS.

WARNING SIGNS:



1. FEELING VERY SAD OR WITHDRAWN FOR MORE THAN TWO WEEKS
2. SERIOUSLY TRYING TO HARM OR KILL ONESELF OR MAKING PLANS TO DO SO
3. SEVERE OUT-OF-CONTROL, RISK-TAKING BEHAVIORS
4. SUDDEN, OVERWHELMING FEAR FOR NO REASON
5. NOT EATING, THROWING UP OR USING LAXATIVES TO LOSE WEIGHT; SIGNIFICANT WEIGHT LOSS OR WEIGHT GAIN
6. SEEING, HEARING OR BELIEVING THINGS THAT ARE NOT REAL
7. REPEATEDLY USING DRUGS OR ALCOHOL
8. DRASTIC CHANGES IN MOOD, BEHAVIOR, PERSONALITY OR SLEEPING HABITS
9. EXTREME DIFFICULTY IN CONCENTRATING OR STAYING STILL
10. INTENSE WORRIES OR FEARS THAT GET IN THE WAY OF DAILY ACTIVITIES

4 THINGS PARENTS CAN DO:

- TALK WITH YOUR PEDIATRICIAN
- GET A REFERRAL TO A MENTAL HEALTH SPECIALIST
- WORK WITH THE SCHOOL
- CONNECT WITH OTHER FAMILIES

**Tulare County
Office of Education**
Tim A. Hire, County Superintendent of Schools

**ALTERNATIVE
ACHIEVEMENT
PROGRAM**



Providing Students with an Alternative Learning Environment

**TULARE COUNTY
SPECIAL EDUCATION**
SPECIAL EDUCATION LOCAL PLAN AREA

VISION

Our Vision is to provide students with an alternative learning environment that has embedded mental health services to promote a therapeutic environment necessary to meet students' individualized educational needs.

OVERARCHING GOAL

The overarching goal of the TCOE Alternative Achievement Program is to provide intensive individualized instruction within a student's community. Through extensive therapy and behavioral supports, students will obtain the necessary skills to return successfully to their general education academic setting.

TARGET STUDENT POPULATION

When a student's needs exceed the ability of the Intervention Resource Classroom (IRC) and require a higher level of care, Level 4 Alternative Achievement Program will be considered.

The Level 4 Program would primarily serve:

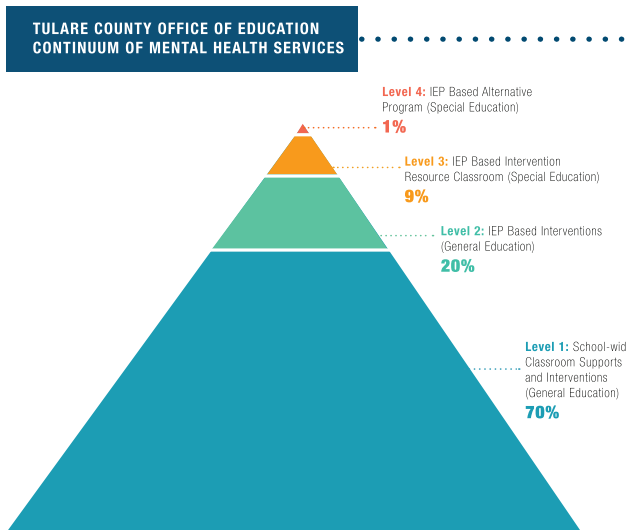
- Students grades 7-12 who are receiving special education services and would benefit from a site-based, highly structured, therapeutically enriched educational program
- Students already receiving educationally-related mental health services
- Students who qualify for special education services due to Serious Emotional Disturbance (SED)

PROGRAM INCLUDES:

- Moderate to Severe Classroom
- Mild to Moderate Classroom
- Elective Classroom
- Counseling Center
- Honor Room
- Mindfulness

CORE PROGRAM COMPONENTS:

- Positive, small, structured, and supportive therapeutic education environment
- Safe and healthy learning community
- Qualified and dedicated staff
- Intensive and extensive mental health services (individual, group, and family)
- Consistent implementation of behavioral supports
- Social skills development and enrichment
- Equivalent common core grade level academic curriculum
- Credit recovery program



SERVING TULARE COUNTY:

MANDATE FOR CONTINUUM OF ALTERNATIVE PLACEMENTS

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) requires LEA's provide a continuum of service and placement options that allow the district to meet each disabled student's educational needs as established by the student's individualized education program (IEP). Title 34, Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), section 300.115(a), states, "Each public agency must ensure that a continuum of alternate placements is available to meet the needs of children with disabilities for special education and related services." [1] In part, a continuum of program options is required in order for a district to be able to provide services while meeting the least restrictive environment (LRE) provision of the IDEA.

[1] The terms "continuum of program options" and "continuum of placement alternatives" are synonymous.



School Districts Served by TCOE 43



AAP Students 1%
IRC Students 29%
BHS Students 70%



Intervention Resource Classrooms 18

TCOE EDUCATIONALLY RELATED MENTAL HEALTH CONTINUUM:

