



# ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION FOR DISRUPTIVE YOUTH (AEDY)

Information for Parents & Families

## WHAT IS AN AEDY PROGRAM?

An AEDY Program is a program approved by the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) to provide a temporary placement for disruptive students in grades 6 through 12. Students placed in an AEDY Program continue to make academic progress towards graduation and work to remedy disruptive behavior through counseling and other behavioral interventions. AEDY placements are used only as a last resort, after all other behavioral interventions have failed to remedy the student's disruptive behavior(s).



## BEFORE PLACEMENT IN AEDY

Before placement in an AEDY Program, the student must be provided an informal hearing in accordance with 22 Pa. Code § 12.8(c). The purpose of the informal hearing is to enable the student to meet with the appropriate school official to explain the circumstances surrounding the event for which the student is being disciplined and to determine whether or not the student should be disciplined.

**The following requirements must be observed and documented through the AEDY Student Referral Process:**

- Notification of the specific reasons for the removal from the regular education setting must be provided in writing to the parents or guardians and the student; sufficient notice of the time and place of the informal hearing must be given;
- A student has the right to question any witnesses present at the hearing;
- A student has the right to speak to and produce witnesses on his or her own behalf; and
- The school entity shall offer to hold the informal hearing prior to placement in the AEDY Program. If the student's presence in the regular education setting poses a continuing danger to persons or property or provides an ongoing disruption of the academic process, immediate placement in the approved AEDY program may occur with the informal hearing to follow. The exception is generally discouraged and should be limited only to the most serious, ongoing infractions.

### How does AEDY work?

#### ENTERING AEDY

##### Placement Criteria

1. Disregard for school authority, including persistent violation of school policy and rules;
2. Display of or use of controlled substances on school property or during school-affiliated activities;
3. Violent or threatening behavior on school property or during school-affiliated activities;
4. Possession of a weapon on school property, as defined under 18 Pa. C.S. § 912 (relating to possession of weapon on school property);
5. Commission of a criminal act on school property or during school-affiliated activities;
6. Misconduct that would merit suspension or expulsion under school policy.

#### IN THE PROGRAM

AEDY Programs may only be used when all other established methods of intervention and/or discipline have been exhausted.

Programs provide a temporary removal for students in grades 6 to 12.

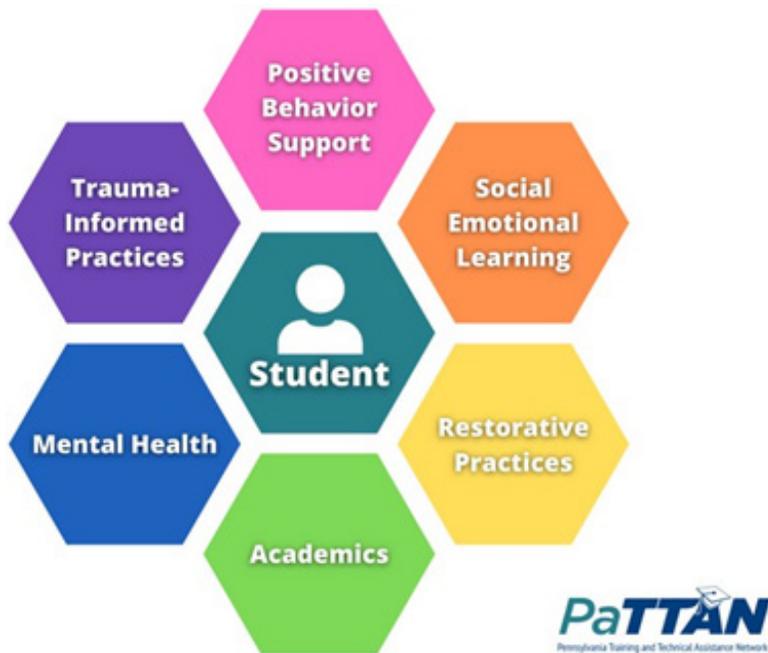
##### Students must receive:

- 990 hours of instruction
- 2.5 counseling hours weekly
- Behavior assessment within 5 days
- A formal periodic review which outlines individual goals for the student
- Course credits
- Options for elective courses

#### EXITING AEDY

Students exit AEDY Programs when their behavioral goals are met.

During the formal periodic review meeting, a transition/exit plan is created that explains the length of the transition period and the supports that will be provided for the student throughout the transition process.



## STUDENT SUPPORTS

AEDY Programs provide a variety of supports for students based on their individual needs.

During the first formal periodic review meeting, families are encouraged to provide information that will help the review team to plan for specific supports for students.

### Specific Supports/Interventions may include:

- Individual and group counseling
- Drug and alcohol counseling groups
- Peer to peer counseling/mediation student-directed counseling groups
- Anger replacement therapy
- assigned mentors
- Check in-check out
- Instruction with pre-teaching and re-teaching career readiness
- Mindfulness strategies

## FORMAL PERIODIC REVIEW

A formal periodic review occurs no later than 45 days into a student's placement in AEDY. The review team includes general education teachers, counselors, administrators, AEDY representatives, home school district representatives, parent(s)/guardian(s), and the student.

The meeting requires a discussion surrounding the individual student's:

- Goal progress
- Grades
- Attendance
- Intervention/supports
- Feedback from each member of the review team

After reviewing the information, the team revises or plans for the opportunity for student success. This may include revising the goal(s) or increasing supports for the student.

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***Students cannot be placed OR remain in AEDY for truancy or attendance.***

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Once the review team determines the student has met their required behavioral goals, the team will develop an individualized exit plan for the student.

### Alternative Education for Disruptive Youth Interconnected Systems of Support

