

# Alternative Education: Overview, Data, and Visioning

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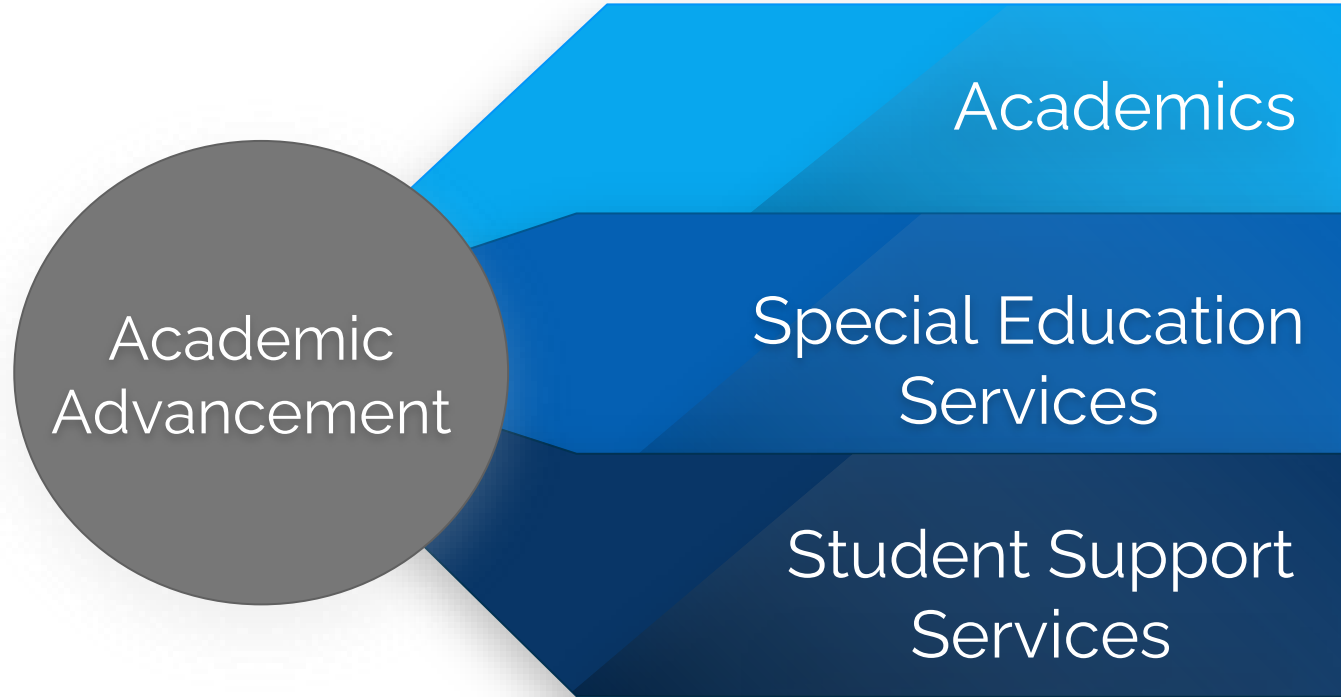
**Student Achievement Committee, 3/28/22**



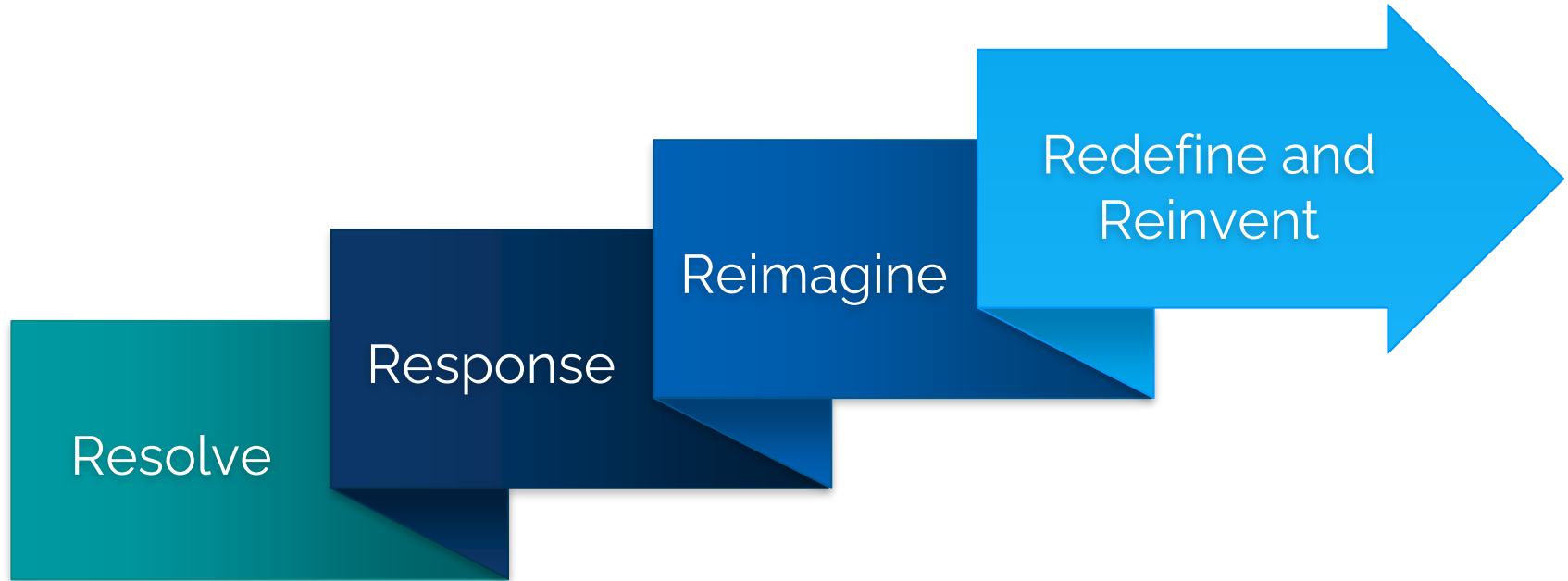
# Learning Outcomes

- 1 Defining the Alternative Education Department
- 2 Overview of Alternative Needs
- 3 Review Current Alternative Programming and Impact
- 4 Discuss Next Areas of Needs

# Alternative Education and Academic Advancement



# Transitioning from Response to Recovery



# Departments of Student Support Services





# Alternative Schools and Programs

# Alternative School Pathways

Voluntary Transfer

Involuntary Transfer

Data-Based Problem-Solving: Academic and/or Behavior

# Alternative Schools and Programs

<u>Application Schools</u>	<u>Disciplinary Reassignment</u>	<u>Special Education</u>
River Oaks MS (105)	Connections Academy MS (105)	Bridges ES (56)
Mount Vernon MS (105)	SCORE B Academy HS (160)	Longview (160)
Mary Phillips HS (160)		Infinity (40)
SCORE A Academy HS (600)		Evening Programs - 3 Sites (20 each site)

# Middle School Alternative: Application-Based

## Mount Vernon and River Oaks Middle Schools

Primary Program - Serves at-risk middle school students who are not experiencing adequate success in their base schools.

Booster Program - An acceleration program designed to provide over-age and proficient students with an opportunity to complete 8th grade in one semester.

Referrals - Coordinated through students' base middle school.

# High School Alternative: Application-Based

## Mary Phillips High

### Description

Focuses on students who have not been successful in traditional school programs due to the student's attendance and academic-related behavioral challenges.

### Referral

Families connect with their referring school counselors to apply for admission.

## SCORE Academy A - Re-Engagement

### Description

Serves as a reengagement program for students between the ages of 16 and 21.

Students seeking another opportunity to earn their high school diploma.

### Referral/Apply:

Families and WCPSS schools may apply directly to SCORE staff.

# Disciplinary Reassignments

## Connections Academy (MS)

### Description

Serves as a smaller, in-person, alternative setting.

### Assignment

Superintendent may assign a student based on a recommendation for long-term suspension from the base school.

## SCORE Academy B (HS)

### Description

Serves as a long-distance blended learning opportunity for students.

### Assignment

Superintendent may assign a student based on a recommendation for long-term suspension from the base school.

# Special Education Alternative Options

## Bridges Elementary Program

Exhibits significant emotional and/or behavioral challenges including disruptive and/or dangerous behaviors.

Low academic performance and high absenteeism.

Referral: Initiated at school-level

## Longview Middle and High

Students who have experienced behavioral difficulty in a regular school setting.

Small class sizes and a structured behavioral management program.

Referral: At base schools and placed by IEP team decision

# Special Education Alternative Options

## Infinity Program

### Description

Direct and computer-based instruction

### Referral

Superintendent may assign a student based on a recommendation for long-term suspension from the base school.

## Evening Programs

### Description

Students who have experienced behavioral difficulty and currently housed at Garner, Sanderson and Rolesville High schools.

Operates from 5:00 to 8:00 PM

### Referral

Superintendent may assign a student based on a recommendation for long-term suspension from the base school.

# In-School Suspension and Alternative Learning Centers

## In-School Suspension (ISS)

1% of the WCPSS student population assigned to ISS.

Students reassigned to an area apart from the regular classroom for a relatively short period of time.

Assignments provided from their teacher.

## Alternative Learning Centers (ALC)

4% of the student population assigned to ALC.

In-school option for behavioral and academic placements led by a certified teacher.

Available in middle and high schools.



# Alternative Education & Data-Based Decisions

# Factors Driving Need for Alternative Options

Not meeting  
state/local  
proficiency  
standards

Grade  
Retention

Dropped  
out/no desire  
to return

Suspended  
and/or  
expelled

Abuse and  
Neglect

Time in  
Juvenile  
Justice  
Centers

Substance  
Abuse

# 2019 UNC-Charlotte Principal Perception Data


**Purpose** - Examine needs related to Alternative Schools and Programs

- Principals were surveyed in the Spring of 2019
- The survey was designed to garner their perception of alternative schools, programs, and options for students in the WCPSS.

## Data-Driven Decisions

- Data is being used to inform our work going forward about student and staff needs around intervention-related support and Alternative School and Program options

# Themes from the Principal Data

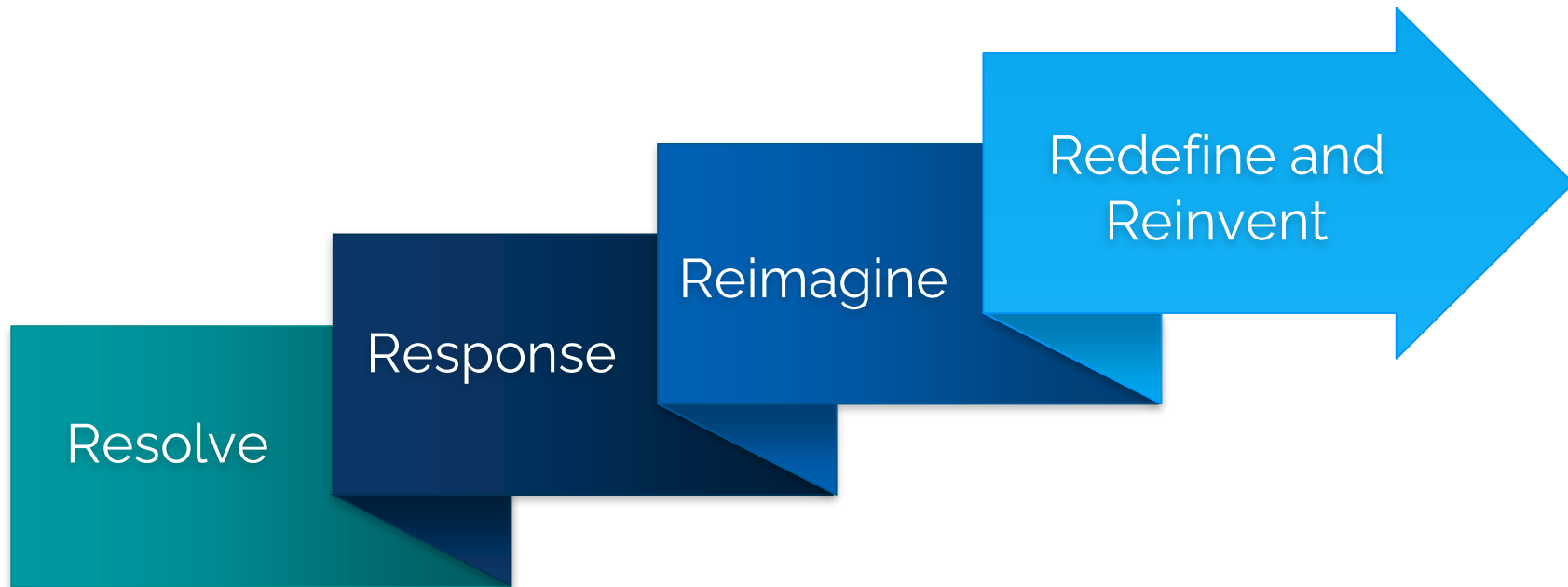


There is an increased need for alternative school and programs to support students

School staff requests professional learning to effectively communicate the alternative school options to stakeholders/parents

Student anxiety and emotional-related needs were highlighted as a common challenge for students

## Transitioning from Response to Recovery



# Next Steps

- WCPSS collaborative team to develop a 5-year plan for Alternative Education programs.
- Continue to reimagine the definition of Alternative Education to positively impact more students.
- Maintain an ongoing review and self-evaluation of the efficacy of the Alternative Learning Center (ALC) program.
- Align the goals of Alternative Education with the tenets and finding of the Comprehensive Plan for Equitable Discipline Practices (CPED).

# Dialogue and Questions

WHAT     
STARTS  
 HERE  
CHANGES  
 EVERYTHING.