



## Alternative to Suspension (A2S) Guidelines

School Days, Monday-Friday 10 am – 2 pm

### What is Alternative to Suspension or A2S?

Alternative to Suspension (A2S) is a structured program designed to provide students with a meaningful alternative to out-of-school suspension. Students are placed in a **structured, supervised environment** where they can continue their education, reflect on their behavior, and engage in restorative practices as an alternative to the traditional school suspension model, which can leave a student in an environment with little to no supervision or academic support. A2S focuses on accountability, personal growth, and conflict resolution while helping students stay on track academically. This approach reduces the risk of students falling behind in school and encourages positive behavioral change, ensuring they return to the classroom better prepared to succeed.

As part of the A2S program, students are encouraged to engage in structured activities that reinforce the principles of self-discipline, teamwork, and personal responsibility—key values that align with the mission of restorative justice.

### A2S Student Guidelines

1. **Administrative Policy:** Students must serve the entire duration of their suspension as specified by the school administration. This is inclusive to school days only. Duration of suspension may be extended to account for holidays, scheduled vacations, teacher workshops, or snow days when the student body is not in session.
2. **Maintaining Academic Progress:** Students should continue to work on assignments provided by their teachers during their suspension. This helps to limit the amount of work missed during the suspension, as well as the need to catch up on missed work upon their return to school.
3. **Communication with Teachers:** Students are required to maintain regular communication with their teachers regarding assignments, due dates, and any questions they may have. This helps ensure they are prepared for their return to school.



4. **Behavior Expectations:** Students must refrain from any behavior that could lead to further disciplinary action during their suspension period. This includes avoiding any actions that could violate AYCC rules or local, state, or federal laws.
5. **Mentorship & Restorative Sessions:** Students may participate in restorative justice circles, conflict resolution workshops, or mentorship sessions to address the root causes of their behavior.
6. **Community Engagement or Service Component:** Students may be required to complete community service, leadership training, or supervised activities at the AYCC to help them build skills, meet school requirements, or repair harm.
7. **Counseling or Emotional Support Sessions:** If needed, students will attend mental health check-ins or goal-setting meetings with a school counselor or the restorative justice staff.
8. **Reflection & Growth Assignment:** Students will complete a self-reflection journal, letter of apology, or action plan to reflect on their behavior and create steps for improvement as needed.

#### AYCC/School Guidelines

1. **Role of the AYCC:** To provide a safe, supportive environment that helps to nurture and promote academic success, individual accountability, and community connection for the student. The AYCC staff will help to facilitate communication between the student, family, school, and law enforcement as needed. Attendance at IEP meetings, court appearances, or other forums as required. Referral to additional support systems such as counseling, community support, or state agencies as necessary. Regular check-ins with school administrators to monitor progress and provide updates regarding ongoing behavioral or academic challenges. Reporting academic completion, progress, and behavioral issues to the school.

**Staff are trained in Prime4Life, the American Lung Association's INDEPTH Alternative to Suspension, and Catch My Breath as well as other interventions to provide additional support for suspensions involving substance use behaviors.**



- 2. **Role of the Participating Schools:** Completion of referral paperwork and information including date and duration of suspension. Open communication regarding student behaviors, challenges, or expectations for the purpose of providing all parties with the information needed to assure student success, safety and accountability. To help facilitate transportation as needed, to assure the student can be in attendance for the required hours.
  
- 3. **Role of the Families:** Support for the student to arrive on time, prepared to work, and aware of the expectations of participation. Communication of any barriers or challenges that may require additional support.

**We do ask that the student bring lunch, if able.**

**Use of cell phones during A2S is strictly prohibited.**

**Scheduling of transportation should be arranged outside of program times.**

**Urgent communication is available by contacting the AYCC or using the contact information provided below.**

**Feel free to reach out to our staff with any questions:**

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