

In South Carolina a total of 94 alternative school programs operated across the state. All of South Carolina school districts are eligible to receive funds to design alternative school programs for students in grades six through twelve. During 2007–08 school districts served 11, 533 students in alternative school programs, which are designed to provide appropriate services to students who for behavioral or academic reasons; are not benefiting from the regular school program or may be interfering with the learning of others.

Alternative school programs may differ from traditional educational programs and schools in scheduling, administrative structure, curriculum, or setting. Alternative school curricula are aligned to the standards for the grade level. Alternative School programs across the state offer students a second chance opportunity in a smaller learning environment to increase academic and behavior success. Most alternative school programs across the state offer to at-risk students in their programs a variety of tools such as life skills program, character education program, service learning, mentoring, JROTC, GED preparation, remediation, anger management, conflict resolution, and behavior modification. The Alternative School programs may offer individualized instruction, credit recovery opportunities for students who are academically behind, and overage students.

During the 2007–08 school year, the Star Academy Program of Pickens County, was the recipient of the National Dropout Prevention Center's Crystal Star Program Award of Excellence in Dropout Recovery, Intervention and Prevention. The students served in the star program have struggled academically; and these students are provided the opportunity to regain lost academic years. In three years,

the program has improved its success rate to 90 percent with overage at-risk 8th and 9th grade students who become 10th graders in one year. For additional information on Star Academy, contact Tim Mullis, Director of the John T. Simpson Alternative Center for Education at TimMullis@pickens.k12.sc.us.

Sonya Boyles a teacher at John T. Simpson Academy Alternative Center for Education received honorable mention in the American Financial Resources National Contest, "The Great American Classroom Makeover". Ms. Boyles will receive \$1,000 cash award for classroom updates and supplies. To learn more, visit www.gaclassroommakeover.com.

Spartanburg County Alternative School (SCAS), in an effort to continue its pursuit of student recovery and remediation, has implemented several exciting new changes for the 2008-2009 academic school year. SCAS kicked off the school year with a new reading program called SRA to diagnose reading deficiencies and improve reading ability. SCAS have also expanded one of our most successful programs, the NovaNET courseware lab, to accommodate middle school students. Academically advanced middle school students have the opportunity to take high school courses that are more suited to their individual ability. For more information click this link [Spartanburg County Alternative School](#).