



Minnesota Association of
Alternative Programs
www.maapmn.org

2019 Legislative Priorities

Vision: *The preeminent voice for educational options.*

Mission: *To lead, promote and support innovative learning experiences.*

1. **Restore Extended Time Revenue**

At-risk students (as defined by statute) enter alternative programs seriously deficient in academic skills and often with compounding emotional and mental health problems which demands individualized remedial teaching and addressing of negative and sometimes dangerous attitudes. This takes skilled instruction and guidance over time. The multiplier for State Approved Alternative Programs of the .2 cap severely restricts meeting the needs of troubled at-risk students who benefit from after school and summertime programming. The restoration of funding to .5 recognizes the actual cost of State Approved Alternative Programs' provision to operate 12 months per year as required by statute. It is recommended that:

- 126C.10 General Education Revenue, subdivision 2a be amended to read: "The multiplier for calculating extended time revenue be based on .5 per student added to the base formula for programs, including charter schools, serving at-risk students during an extended year."

2. **Request Funds for MAAP STARS**

MAAP STARS is an effective program that helps students in alternative settings develop professional employment, academic, and social skills through participation in state-wide trainings and conferences. The STARS mission aligns with the World's Best Workforce legislation and helps students: build cooperative and competitive spirits through individual and team activities; strengthens social skills; and, reinforces an appreciation for the responsibilities of citizenship, careers and lifelong learning. This grant will help make STARS events more accessible and affordable for alternative students to participate and, therefore,

- MAAP STARS program requests a grant of \$45,000 to the Minnesota Association of Alternative Programs to support the STARS student organization's employment and citizenship activities.

3. **Alternative Assessments**

In recent years, alternative schools and programs have been unrealistically measured. We support the remedies identified in the October 2018 Education Evolving report, Defining & Measuring Student-Centered Outcomes which states, "Appropriate measures be designed to appraise student program progress particularly in the areas of academic growth, mental health and transitional skills". We recommend:

- STATUTE 123A.05 be amended with a subdivision 4 to read: State Approved Alternative Programs and other programs serving at-least 75% at-risk students are to be assessed by fair alternative measures.