

# Alternative Learning Programs and Schools (ALPS) Updates

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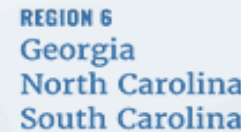
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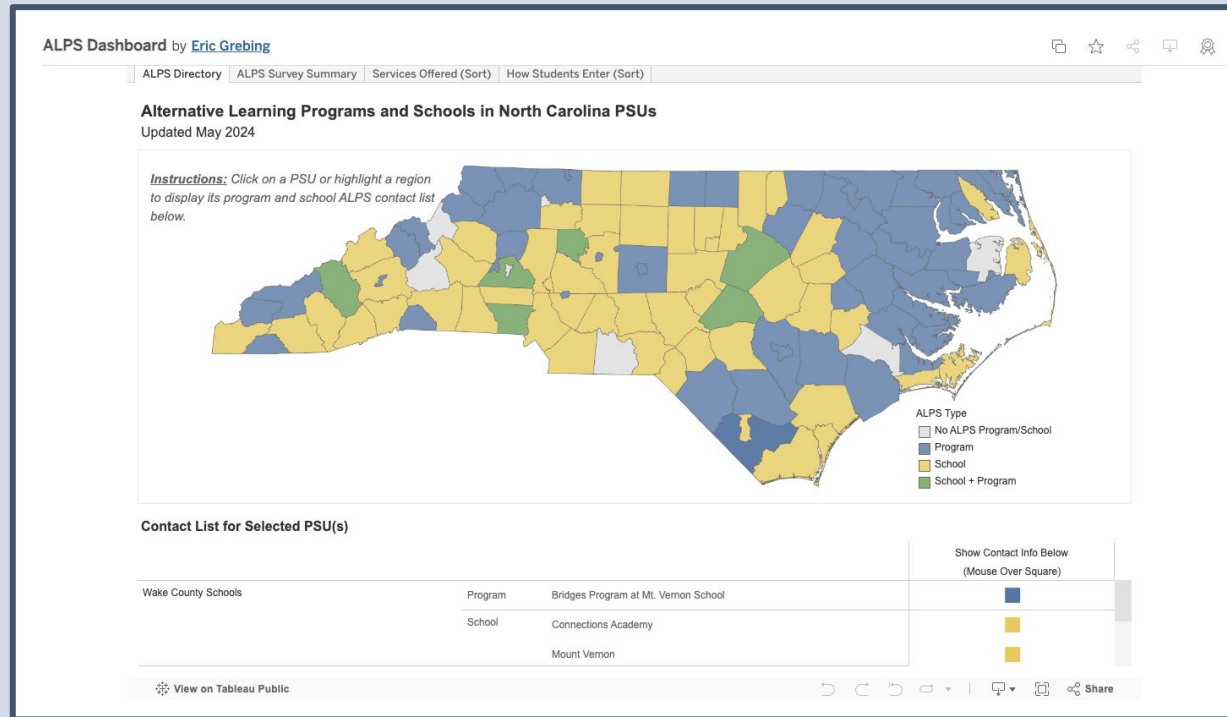
# Powers and Duties of the State Board

**115C-12(24)** Duty to Develop Standards for Alternative Learning Programs, Provide Technical Assistance on Implementation of Programs, and Evaluate Programs. “The State Board of Education shall provide technical support to local school administrative units to assist them in developing and implementing plans and proposals for alternative learning programs. The State Board shall evaluate the effectiveness of alternative learning programs and, in its discretion, of any other program funded from the Alternative School/At Risk Student allotment”

**115C-105.47A(b)** “The State Board shall review the proposal expeditiously and, if appropriate, may offer recommendations to modify the proposal. The local board shall consider any recommendations made by the State Board before implementing the alternative learning program or alternative school.”



# Schools/Programs and Engagement

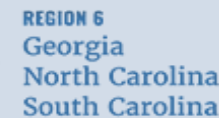


## ALPS Dashboard

- Alternative Schools  
N = 97
- Alternative Programs  
N = 73

ALPS Dashboard Available:

<https://www.dpi.nc.gov/students-families/enhanced-opportunities/alternative-learning-programs>



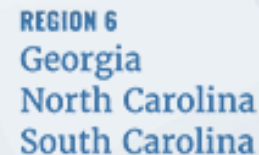
# Funding and Personnel Overview

- no dedicated budget (unsure of duration)
- no full-time FTE since March, 2017
- mix of split responsibilities and temporary employees
- critical support from SERVE at UNC-Greensboro/Region 6 Comprehensive Center and RTI International (beginning March, 2020)
- expanded partnership with SERVE at UNC-Greensboro/Region 6 Comprehensive Center (one-year of FTE funding for from The Center for Safer Schools in 2022-2023)



# Focus Areas

- Phase 1- historical context, contemporary research, and opportunities for improvement [completed]
- Phase 1a- plan/frame/support ALPS work and strengthen communication loops [completed]
- Phase 2- needs assessment and proposed updates to policies and procedures manual [underway]
- Phase 3- capacity-building/continued progress [on-going]



# Phase 1/1a:



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# Spring 2020 - Summer 2022

## Spring/Summer 2020

- Initiated an alternative learning programs and schools (ALPS) network
- Developed targeted supports for alternative school leaders in Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI) schools
- Hosted virtual summer conference

## School Year 2020-2021

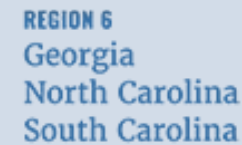
- Expanded network to include non-CSI ALPS
- Provided community of practice (CoP) and professional learning workshops

## School Year 2021-2022

- Embedded climate and school culture supports into network opportunities
- Began exploring possibilities around rebuilding NC Association of Alternative Education (NCAAE)
- Hosted the 2nd virtual summer conference

## Summer 2022

- Launched NCAAE Steering Committee



# Fall 2022 - Summer 2023

**Fall  
2022**

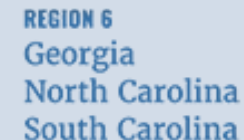
- Stabilization planning (work to identify funding sources for a DPI ALPS Liaison)
- Memo to superintendents (initial needs and support preference survey, district contact in EDDIE, & support opportunities)

**Spring  
2023**

- Hosted office hours and launched communications in NCDPI Top Ten Newsletter
- Launched ALPS dashboard using initial survey\*
- Increased targeted support sessions based on feedback

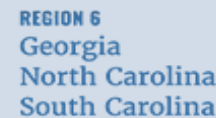
**Summer  
2023**

- Hosted hybrid summer conference
- Facilitated regional reflection sessions (building capacity for implementation of Exemplary Practices and improvement)
- Coordinated the re-launch of North Carolina Association of Alternative Educators (NCAAE)



# Alternative Educators Professional Development Needs (2/2023)

Topic	District Administrators (N = 45)	School Administrators (N = 42)	School Staff (N = 129)
Social-Emotional Needs & Mental Health (Trauma, Resilience & Restorative Approaches, etc.)	39	32	56
Best Practices (Models, Career and Technical Education, Work-Based Learning, etc.)	12	5	9
Behavior Prevention & Intervention (Classroom Management, PBIS, CHAMPS, De-escalation Strategies, etc.)	10	10	24
Curriculum and Instruction (Personalized, Differentiated, Literacy, etc.)	7	18	43



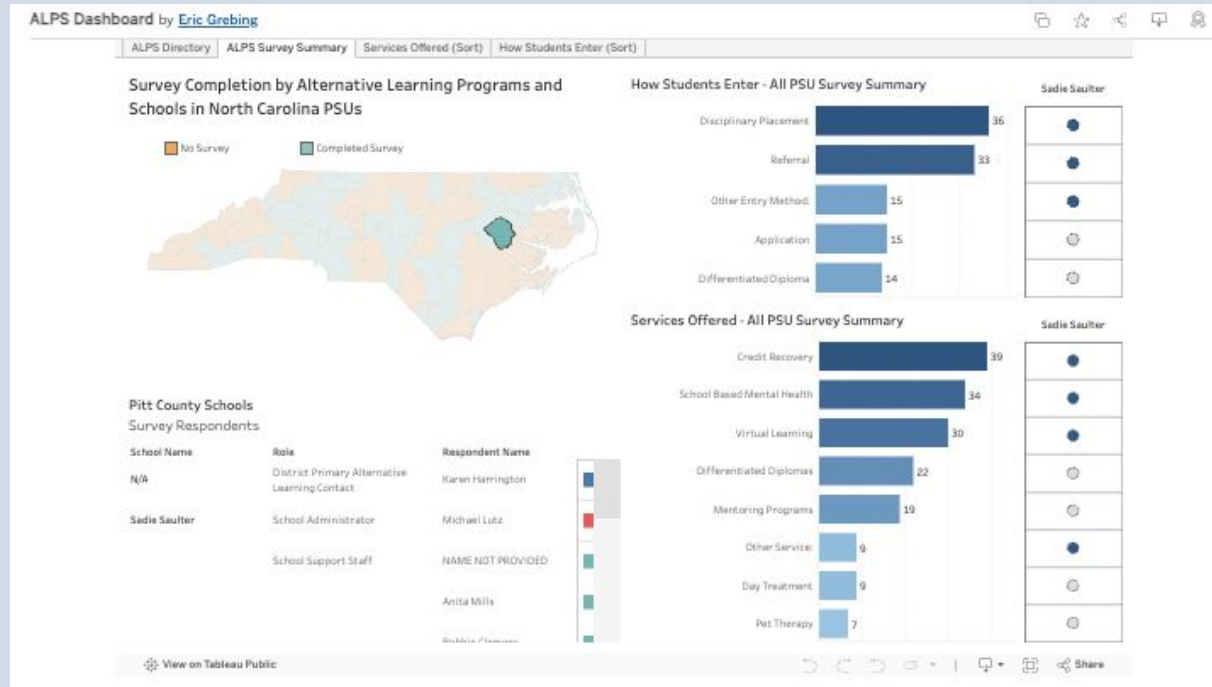
# Timeline Fall 2023 - Spring 2024

**School  
Year  
2023- 2024**

- Memo to superintendents
- Monthly communication
- Continued and expanded professional development offerings
- Continued regional reflection sessions
- Launch of needs assessment funded by RC6 Grant



# Dashboard and Participation Rates

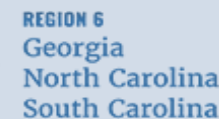


## Engagement Summary Data

- Between 2022-2024, 70% of traditional PSUs have participated in at least one support event.

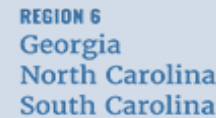
ALPS Dashboard Available:

<https://www.dpi.nc.gov/students-families/enhanced-opportunities/alternative-learning-programs>



# Needs Assessment

- **Process**
  - Establish design team, develop key questions and data collection method
  - Analyze needs assessment data
  - Share findings/sense making with design team
  - Needs assessment analysis report
  - Implications and next steps, state sustainability plan
- **Questions:** How do other states support ALPS? How do ALPS envision DPI Support? What are the experiences of families with students in ALPS?



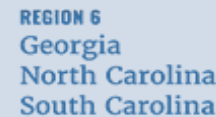
# Needs Assessment Continued

- **Methods:**

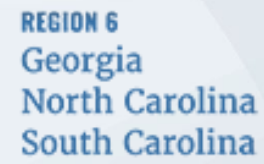
- Focus groups, interviews, questionnaire, document review, landscape analysis

- **Timeline:**

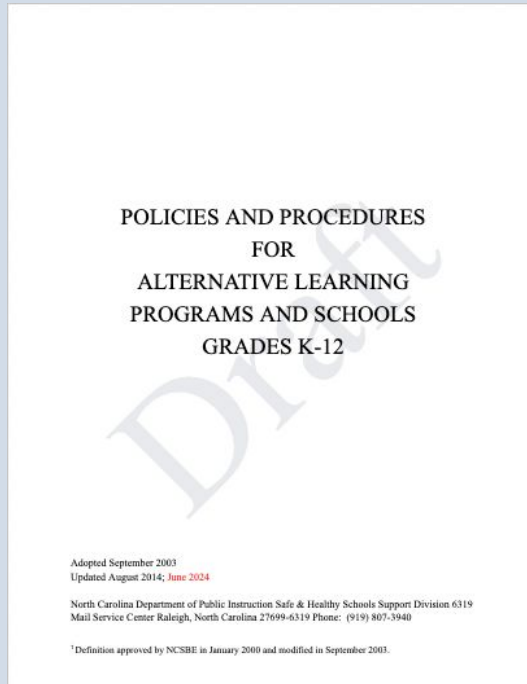
- May - July - Data Collection
- June - July - Design Team Feedback and Sense Making
- August - Discuss and Finalize Needs Assessment Report



# Phase 2:



# Policies and Procedures for Alternative Learning Updates



- Addition of process for establishing a new alternative school or program
- Shifted language from “Student Assistance Team” to “Student Support Team”
- Added additional professional staff terminology
- Add exemplary practices

# Phase 3:

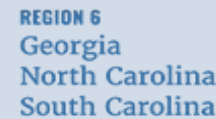


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# Moving Forward/Capacity-Building

- Finalize ALPS manual and revisions and submit for approval
- Continue advocacy (e.g., FTEs and dedicated funding)
- Strengthen capacity (state, LEAs, PSUs, and NCAAE)
- Develop and implement program evaluation framework
- Maintain partnership with RTI International, and the SERVE Center at UNC-Greensboro/ Region 6 Comprehensive Center



# Transition: A New Home for ALPS

Effective July 1, 2024:

