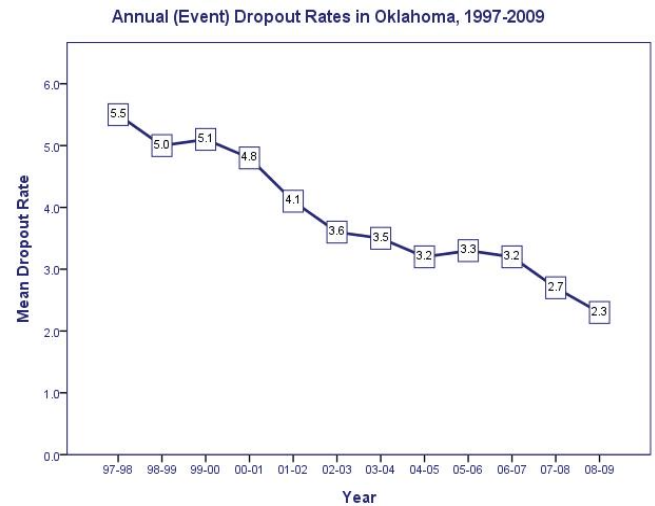


... I dropped out of school previously, I had no hope. Then I came to [program name] and graduating is the only thing on my mind and a future education.

- Current Alternative Education Student

Background. Oklahoma has created a nationally-recognized statewide model for alternative education. In 1996, the Statewide Alternative Education Academy Program was launched, providing permanent funding for alternative education across the state. By 1998, the current level of 250 academy programs was reached. Over the past twelve years, more than 150,000 at-risk youth in grades six through twelve have been served. The state dropout rate decreased sharply once the Statewide Alternative Academy program became well established; the rates have continued to decline despite increasing risk levels among Oklahoma students. **In 2008-09, 10,930 students were served** and more than 800 classroom teachers were employed. Over the past twelve years:



Note: The 2009 figure is a projection. Official data will be released by the SDE in January.

- More than 148,000 students served
- 12,716 former dropouts returned to school
- 33,083 high school graduates

Program Outcomes. Statewide Alternative Programs are effective. Each year, Alternative Education students are compared to students just like them – those on waiting lists. The findings have been consistent for more than ten years: **At-risk students in alternative education improve; similar students who are not served decline.** *Alternative education students were absent less often, made higher grades, failed fewer classes, earned a greater number of credits, were referred less often for disciplinary problems, and improved their basic skills tests scores.*

Variable		Group			
		Alternative	Change	Comparison	Change
Semester GPA	Pre	1.45	↗	1.54	↘
	Post	2.52		1.21	
Courses Failed per Semester	Pre	2.62	↘	2.32	↗
	Post	0.55		2.96	
Days Absent per Semester	Pre	14.11	↘	10.81	↗
	Post	11.68		15.70	
Days Suspended per Semester	Pre	2.07	↘	2.23	↗
	Post	0.38		4.98	

Program Cost. Each dropout costs the government more than \$200,000 over a lifetime. Graduates earn more (and pay more taxes), are healthier, and are less likely to commit crimes or use other public services such as food stamps. Over the last 12 years, the state of Oklahoma has invested \$200 million in alternative education. During that time, 10,830 former dropouts had a positive status at the end of the school year. If we look *only* at that group of students, **the savings to government is estimated at \$2.2 billion** over their lifetimes (10,830 x \$200,000).

For more information, please contact:

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