

SAGE Academy

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A. Mission Statement

SAGE Academy (*Students Achieving Greater Education*) will provide, in partnership with home and community, a safe, supportive alternative educational environment characterized by small class sizes and individualized instruction.

B. Beliefs

1. Each individual deserves a safe and nurturing environment.
2. Each individual is unique and has value.
3. Each individual deserves fair and ethical treatment.
4. Behavior is a choice.
5. All individuals can experience success.
6. The learning process is a shared responsibility.
7. Each individual can learn.
8. Each individual can be a contributing member of a democratic society.

C. Goals

1. Increase student performance in math and reading competencies.
2. Develop reading and writing across the curriculum.
3. Increase parent involvement with teachers and students.
4. Increase student attendance.
5. Improve social interaction skills (with adults and peers).

D. Expected Outcomes

1. Increased competency scores
2. Increased GPA
3. Improved attendance
4. Improved communication with adults and peers

E. Target Population

SAGE Academy emphasizes early intervention in the areas of attendance, academics, and attitude. While juniors and seniors may be accepted, the target population consists of ninth and tenth grade students who have not been successful in traditional school settings. Chatham County schools are encouraged to refer:

1. students who are at-risk for academic failure;
2. students who have repeated more than one grade;
3. students who have scored Levels I or II on End of Grade or End of Course tests; and
4. students who have not passed the North Carolina Competency Tests in reading or math.

F. Student Assignment and Enrollment

1. Students may be referred to SAGE Academy at any time during the school year by a school principal, guidance counselor, or by a parent or guardian.
2. A meeting between the prospective student, parent/guardian, SAGE representatives, and a home

school representative is strongly recommended.

3. Students are generally expected to remain at SAGE Academy for at least one school year.
4. SAGE Academy requires a completed referral packet from each student's home school. Referral packets include a SAGE Academy Application (5a-5d), attendance records, IEP (if applicable), report cards, medical information, test scores, discipline records, and diagnostic or psychological testing.
5. SAGE Academy principal, faculty, and staff determine if the needs of the referred student can be met at SAGE. Students and parents/guardians may choose to continue at SAGE as long as the student meets SAGE guidelines.
6. SAGE has a maximum teacher/student ratio of 1 to 15.

G. Transportation

1. Traditional door-to-door bus transportation is not provided to SAGE Academy students.
2. Bus "pick-up points" for students are designated as the demographics require. Pick-up points are determined by enrollment and they change on a year-to-year basis.
3. Licensed SAGE students who wish to drive to school must provide a copy of their vehicle registration and drivers license to the principal.

H. Instructional Program

1. SAGE Academy meets the guidelines required by the North Carolina State Board of Education for one thousand hours of instructional time in a one hundred eighty day time period.
2. SAGE Academy operates on a block schedule (four by four plan).
3. Designed to meet the needs of the student population, course offerings may include:
 - a. English I, II, III, IV, and Creative Writing;
 - b. Social Studies (Civics & Economics, World History, United States History, Geography);
 - c. Algebra I, Introduction to High School Math, Essential Math, Geometry, and Technical Math;
 - d. Science (Physical Science, Earth Science, Biology, Astronomy, and Life Science); and
 - e. CTE (Career Management, Computer Applications I & II, Digital Communications, and Marketing).
4. Online courses are offered through the NC Virtual Public School and NovaNet.
5. All courses are based on the North Carolina Standard Course of Study.
6. SAGE Academy students are responsible for state mandated End-of-Course tests.

I. Technology

1. SAGE Academy has a Media Computer Lab for student and teacher use.
2. Students have access to technology through the school's i-Book carts and through classroom computers.
3. All classrooms are wired for internet access.
4. The CTE computer lab houses fourteen computers.

J. Student and Parent Academic Participation

1. Parent/guardian support is required for SAGE student enrollment.
2. Parents are encouraged to visit and volunteer at the school, as well as participate in the school's Parent Teacher Student Association.
3. Parent/teacher conference day is held twice a year. Additional conferences are held as needed. Parents and students meet with all teachers during conferences.
4. Progress reports are sent home every three weeks with students. Parents may also track daily

student progress on-line through the EZ Grade Pro link on teacher WebPages.

5. Report cards are mailed home after each six-week grading period. SAGE Exit Criteria are also evaluated and reviewed each six weeks.

K. Student Extra-Curricular Activities

SAGE Academy students may participate in extra curricular sports activities, school clubs, and organizations with their home school as long as they meet the criteria required for the activity.

L. Faculty and Staff

1. SAGE Academy faculty and staff are recommended by the SAGE Academy principal or the superintendent, and are approved by the Chatham County Board of Education. Faculty includes certified teachers in core subject areas (English, Math, Social Studies, and Science), as well as an Exceptional Children (EC) and Career-Technical Education (CTE) teacher.
2. The school additionally offers library/media services and guidance counseling services.

M. Support Staff

Chatham County Schools offers support services to faculty, staff and students at SAGE Academy. Student services include but are not limited to:

1. school nurse;
2. county at-risk counseling;
3. English as a Second Language resources; and
4. tutoring for math, reading, and computer competency testing.

N. Cafeteria/Food Services

1. Qualified students receive free and reduced meals.
2. Students can apply for free and reduced price meal benefits at any time.
3. Meals for break and lunch are transported from Jordan Matthews High School.
4. No food is prepared on the SAGE campus.
5. A drink machine is available in the cafeteria.

O. Exit Process

1. Students and parents/guardians may choose to exit SAGE at the end of the school year, or at the end of a semester, if all parties feel it is in the best interest of the student.
2. Students who remain at SAGE and fulfill graduation requirements may participate in graduation services at their *home school*.