



FLOWING WELLS SCHOOLS

IOLA FRANS ADMINISTRATION CENTER
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May 11, 1989

To Whom It May Concern:

Re: Tucson Unified School District Alternative School Program

During the 1986-87 school year, I was Director of the North Central Association for the State of Arizona. At that time, I was the chairperson of the North Central Evaluation team which monitored and evaluated the Tucson Unified School District's Alternative Programs School.

The purpose of this letter is to support the need for alternative formats for students and to support the Senior High School Accommodations Program. There are approximately 40 students enrolled in the program, and of those students, 40% are without a place to live. That is, they are not living with parents and are either living with friends or in other situations. In reviewing the data collected regarding the students during the North Central Report, it is revealed that to several of the students the school is the only secure, safe place that they recognize in their lives. There are two staff members involved in the instruction of the students. All of the students are high school drop-outs. The credits earned in the program are related to learning circumstances created around the interests of the students. The recommendations of the North Central team included adding more structure to those credit earning courses. Subsequent to the evaluation, several courses have been built around issues of attendance and responsibility.

In terms of meeting the needs of at-risk students, especially those students who have already dropped out of school, it is important to develop very different alternative strategies. It was the opinion of the visitation team that the Senior High Accommodations School was in fact meeting the needs of a very unique and different population. Without the Senior High Accommodations Program, the 40 students enrolled would not be in any social or school environment. It is my hope that all school districts can attempt to meet the varying needs of all of its populations. It appeared as though the Senior High Accommodations School was meeting the very unique needs of their student population.

Regards,

Philip M. Corkill, Ed.D.
Associate Superintendent