

WESTONKA AREA LEARNING ACADEMY (WALA)

The Westonka Area Learning Academy is a “school-within-a-school” alternative learning program at Mound Westonka High School. The WALA program includes required coursework in the four core disciplines: English, social studies, math and science, as well as an option for work experience credit. The WALA curriculum is innovative and includes inter-disciplinary and project-based learning units that provide rigor and relevance to learning.

Listed below are the at-risk indicators. A student under the age of 21 must meet one of the following criteria to be eligible to choose a non-traditional education program (ie: WALA):

1. Performs substantially below performance level.
2. Is behind in satisfactorily completing coursework.
3. Is pregnant or a parent.
4. Has been assessed as chemically dependent.
5. Has been excluded or expelled.
6. Has been referred by a school district for enrollment in an eligible non traditional program.
7. Has been physically or sexually abused.
8. Has experienced mental health problems.
9. Has been homeless sometime in the last six months.
10. Speaks English as a second language or has limited English proficiency.
11. Has withdrawn from school or has been chronically truant.
12. Is being treated in a hospital in the seven-county metropolitan area for cancer or other life-threatening illness or is the sibling of the above scenario and resides at least 60 miles beyond the outside boundary of the seven-county metropolitan area.

To succeed in WALA, students must master the **ABC's**: Attendance, Behavior, and Coursework. Failure to master any of the ABC's will result in a **Debrief** with the WALA coordinator. Continued struggles with the ABC's would end with an **Exit** from the class(es). Here is what is expected in each of the areas:



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Attendance

Attendance in class is critical to success. Students are expected to be on time and follow the WHS attendance policy. Tardiness and absenteeism from class(es) would initiate a debrief.

Behavior

Students are expected to behave in such a way that maintains a positive learning experience for students and staff. Inappropriate cell phone use, sleeping in class, inappropriate language and conversations, etc. are all behaviors that would prompt a debrief.

Coursework

Students are expected to maintain a consistent “C” average in all WALA classes with few missing assignments. Failing grades will result in a debrief.

Debriefs

Debriefs will take place when WALA staff members determine an intervention is needed. In class reminders and check ins with guided study staff are built-in ways to stay successful.

Exits

Exits will occur when WALA staff deems it necessary to remove the student from class(es), and will result in a conversation with school counselors to determine a different learning environment.

Academic requirements are fulfilled periods 1-4 and mainstream elective opportunities are available periods 5-7. Interested students must contact the School Counseling department or the program coordinator to determine eligibility.

WALA Coordinator:

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