

P.O. Box 6929
Louisville, KY 40206
502.895.1942



June 21, 2019

Dr. Randy Poe, Superintendent
Boone County Schools
8330 US Highway 42
Florence, KY 41042

Dear Randy,

Based on the enthusiastic feedback received at our recent meeting in Louisville, we are pleased to be launching the Schlechty Center Network for Alternative Schools (NAS). We are excited that your program is interested in being a part of the inaugural network year. The NAS will offer a series of professional learning experiences for educational leaders from alternative schools throughout your region with the following intended results:

- Learn about best practices for engagement in schools that work with at-risk populations.
- Create a framework to support an alternative school as a learning organization.
- Share resources and tools with a network of peers to improve educational outcomes.
- Raise awareness of high-need areas such as designing engaging work, behavior management, intake, transition, designing learning for the transient student, social and emotional learning, trauma-informed care, engaging students with credit recovery, student voice, and technology integration.

The NAS will serve a diverse configuration of school districts and programs across the state. The survey feedback that we have received since our meeting indicates that there exists significant interest from leaders in as few as eight to as many as 20 districts, schools, or programs. Our vision is to customize pricing based upon both the size of the program and the desired participation levels from each organization.

This letter serves as a formal invitation to your organization for membership in the network. The annual **network membership fee** based upon your program size and anticipated participation is **\$20,000 for the 2019–2020 academic year**. This fee allows for a set number of participants at professional learning and collaborative activities throughout the year, as detailed in the network outline below. Additional seats, if needed, may also be purchased at a nominal rate.

We sincerely hope that your district will join us in this effort to network, collaborate, learn, and share in a common effort to better serve our students and staff. Together we know we will see great gains in engagement for academically-challenged students and disengaged youth. If you are ready to join the network, sign below and return to me at your earliest convenience so we can reserve your space.

Kat Crawford, Senior Fellow at the Center, will follow this message with a survey to help us design our launching of a Network Leadership Team (NLT) design workshop that is worthy of your participation and dedication.

With great respect,



Dr. Steve McCammon
President
Phone: 253.670.4953

I commit to 2019-2020 membership details as outlined on pages 3 and 4 of this document in the Schlechty Center Network for Alternative Schools at an annual fee of \$20,000.

District and/or Program Name:

Signature:

Title:

Printed Name:

Date:

Note: *In addition to this network offering, the Schlechty Center offers many other tools, training experiences, networking opportunities, and sessions on strategy and process aimed at increasing student engagement and increasing profound learning for students. If you'd like to learn more about the Center, please visit our [website](#) and the [Schlechty Center Offerings](#) for all of our offerings.*

Schlechty Center Network for Alternative Schools

An initiative to provide collaborative professional learning development and other services to educators serving students in alternative settings

On June 13, the Schlechty Center facilitated an interest forum in Louisville, Kentucky, around a network for alternative schools. The target audience for the new network includes Kentucky educators who lead school districts, schools, and programs serving students in alternative educational settings. As a result of the needs expressed by participants at this interest forum, the Schlechty Center is offering the Network for Alternative Schools (NAS), professional learning and collaboration designed with input from stakeholders to meet the professional development needs of Kentucky educators who lead and/or teach in alternative schools.

The NAS is being led by Kat Crawford, Senior Fellow at the Schlechty Center and Director of Technology for the Center for Educational Excellence in Alternative Settings. For the past eight years, she has worked in secure schools to transform education services and cultivate innovative and engaging classrooms. Her work started in Texas with the Texas Juvenile Justice Department and branched out to 44 different states through blended learning grants and curriculum initiatives, like *Unsung* and *Unbound*, written for juvenile justice educators. In her experience, Kat has recognized a need to bring together administrators and teachers who work with our most at-risk populations. Together we know we will see great gains in engagement for academically-challenged students and disengaged youth.

Based on what we have learned from practitioners, the following customized network services will be offered to the members in a centralized location:

- **Customized On-site Visit.** A week will be reserved early in the school year for Kat Crawford to do a series of on-site visits to each program. This will provide an opportunity for the Schlechty Center to further customize focus in each program.
- **Network Leadership Team (NLT) Meetings.** This series of meetings will provide leadership development and support for those who lead, advocate for, and manage alternative school programs. This team will initially meet in late summer to help design the network year. This team will include superintendents, principals, executive directors, program managers, and selected staff members. The major theme of this group will be built around leadership, advocacy, and staff engagement. *This activity includes three, one-day sessions per year for up to six participants per program. Please note that this model is most effective when the cohort is a team with the same participants attending all sessions together.*
- **Professional Development Experiences.** These sessions are targeted for principals and teachers to learn strategies to increase student engagement and achievement. The design of these learning experiences will support teachers in understanding and appreciating the challenges confronting students placed in alternative settings. Principals and teachers will learn from one another using a collaborative approach. *These sessions will include a two-day conference to start the year, followed by virtual coaching sessions (see final bullet) to tackle specific professional learning goals. An*

optional second conference session may be scheduled as desired by Network members. Your program can send up to 10 principals and/or teachers per session. Please note that this model is most effective when the cohort is a team with the same participants attending all sessions together.

- **Annual Key Leaders Conference.** This session is offered to those who are in positions to advocate for the youth educated in alternative settings. Modeled after the Schlechty Center National Key Leaders Conference, this experience will include superintendents, key central office leaders, special education supervisors, principals, judges, community leaders, law enforcement officials, and others who are key leaders to provide support. *This conference is a one-and-a-half-day session for up to 10 participants per program. Note that this conference can be offered during the school year on a Friday evening and all-day Saturday or during the summer if the group desires that. We will survey to account for these preferences.*
- **Coaching, Collaboration, and Networking Support.** This support will be offered through access to resources via the NAS virtual platform. Digital technologies will be used to connect and encourage collaboration between and among all the educators in these alternative school networks across the state and the nation. Members will share best practices that can be accessed on the shared network platform. The NAS virtual platform will be available for anyone in your program and include:
 - ❖ Shared Best Practices
 - Members will upload and share behavior plans, lesson plans, and transition plans
 - ❖ Forum to Communicate with Other Alternative Schools and Districts
 - A series of discussion channels where administrators and teachers can connect
 - ❖ Coaching Sessions
 - 1:1 or small-group video coaching for administrators and teachers
 - ❖ Webinars and Teacher Panels
 - Members will connect to what's happening at a national level with webinars and teacher panels from around the country
 - ❖ Advocacy Forum
 - A discussion board of federal and state issues that impact NAS districts

Network Costs

Interest in the network has been expressed from leaders in small, mid-size, and large programs across the state of Kentucky. Therefore, our intent is to tailor the fee and offerings based on specific program needs. Based upon the feedback that we have received from your district's anticipated participation level and program size, ***the annual network fee for the services and participation, as outlined above is \$20,000.***