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ALTE 615 Unit 4 Assignment

Characteristics of Effective Schools

After I read each article, I found many characteristics that were effective for use in alternative school system. Each alternative school is not required to use all of these characteristics at the same time, but the school should be able to select these appropriate characteristics utilized for at risk students. From all of the characteristics that I know, I would like to choose “special education for student” and “volunteers for tutoring and mentoring” to be my top-two characteristics.

Special Education for Student

I picked this characteristic because each student’s learning needs is different from another. If learning needs of the student are addressed, I believe the students would be encouraged to be interested in joining alternative activities. After that I would be able to deal with other effective characteristics to benefit them. The student’s information background is most significant for this characteristic achievement to understand how each student is being served in alternative school. Before the special education will be selected for students, I have to answer a question concerning the student’s information background “How can I get most information?”

The student’s information might come from the application form, admission interviews and initial assessment. However, these resources may not be enough for preparing the appropriate education. I would look for more information in other ways such as, students relative, communities, previous school, their friends etc. Then, information evaluation would help me either place the students into the right education or discuss with students to choose their learning need. The most important thing that I might find from the information is resilience.

The appropriate education for students will be selected after I get enough information. According to individual needs, the students will benefit from individualized attention engendered by multiple educations customized.

Volunteers for Tutoring and Mentoring

According to two major categories of volunteer activities, volunteers can be used to provide core services, such as tutoring or mentoring. This characteristic would benefit not only at risk students but it could connect the alternative school to the community and the student’s family. This process would enlarge the circle of significant resources. So, I could use it to collaborate with other programs or characteristics to both reduce their terrible behaviors and eliminate their risk factors. I may use volunteers to track student attendance, contact parents of absent students, or help them in the classroom and hall monitors.

In term of tutors, I would divide students into small group for each tutor. I would also give them responsibility to help their group study for classroom's assignments. The tutor should schedule once or twice a week to have meetings.

Mentoring should be generally structured as a one-on-one activity where monitors would meet with students during the school day such as lunch time or break time. Some case mentoring pairs may even meet at least occasionally at other locations. I would try to not use my office for mentoring because students might not feel comfortable to talk with monitors. I would use a place that has no pressure and where students would not hesitate to say everything.