



Alternatives Unlimited, Inc

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Description of Services:

Since its inception in 1997, Alternatives Unlimited, Inc. (AU) has partnered with urban and suburban school districts throughout the United States to provide high-quality, cost-effective educational support services. Alternatives Unlimited provides tutoring that has proven to be effective in improving student's academic achievement in Mathematics and Language Arts/Reading. Our instructional strategies and curriculum meet all criteria set forth by the Texas Education Agency (TEA) for SES providers. Alternatives Unlimited's tutoring program has been successful in helping students improve their skills in Reading and Mathematics by providing individual and small-group tutoring. (1:5 student tutor ratio) AU uses an interactive, hands-on pedagogical approach. While individualized instruction focuses on helping students develop and strengthen the fundamental math and/or language arts skills necessary for academic success in all content areas, the tutoring activities target the skill sets that the student's assessment and diagnostic data indicate they have not yet mastered.

Description of Instructor Qualifications:

Alternatives Unlimited, Inc. strives to place highly qualified tutors with all students. If the district allows, the first means of tutor recruitment is always an effort to recruit tutors with Texas teaching certification from the district in which tutoring is being delivered. AU does realize there are significant advantages for children when the program utilizes tutors familiar with district processes and local challenges. AU then recruits credentialed teachers from outside of the district. Minimally, all tutors will possess a Bachelor's Degree, and in those instances when a tutor does not possess Texas teaching certification, he/she will be directly supervised by a Texas certified teacher. Tutors must have a strong understanding of the TEKS/TAKs, so that time spent with the students after school is focused and targeted to assist the students gain the skills needed to achieve. Tutors who are degreed professionals will be trained how to utilize TEKS to achieve maximum student performance.

Description of Evidence of Effectiveness:

Quantitative and qualitative data provide evidence that our methods and overall instructional program are effective in helping students improve in Math and Language Arts/Reading. Our services more than contribute to their overall academic achievement. Standardized test scores, past grade reports, and results of the AU pre-assessments are all evaluated when creating the tutoring plan. Each individual plan details specific short- and long-range academic achievement goals. Specifics of the achievement goals and the academic plan are shared, in detail, to parents and students in their primary language. Qualitative evidence of the impact of our tutoring program on student academic performance is collected in the form of tutor appraisals and parent surveys. Tutor appraisals and recommendations are provided on our SES Provider Communication survey. Each month tutors provide AU and parents with updated information about their student's academic development and emerging needs. AU tutors document test scores and class grades earned each month in reading, math and writing. The information describes the student's areas of growth and mastery, and identifies the areas of focus for the future tutoring sessions, in addition to current academic goals. This quantitative/qualitative information is collected and reviewed by the AU tutor and District Coordinator every four weeks.