

Ombudsman Educational Services

Philosophy: Ombudsman believes in the transformational power of education and embraces a philosophy that values each student as an individual who can and wants to learn.

Values: Ombudsman affirms that all students have value. Many Ombudsman students have not been successful in a traditional classroom setting because they have adult responsibilities, are behind academically or have issues such as behavior or attendance, which may cause them to be at risk of dropping out of school. Ombudsman gives students an alternate route to earn a high school diploma. Through one-on-one instruction, teachers guide and encourage students through the process of making positive choices about their education so that they can become successful students and productive citizens. As a result, students have greater accountability for their learning and better understand the consequences of their choices. In the process, they learn several important concepts:

- That every situation presents a choice;
- To identify potential outcomes of choices they are considering;
- To set goals;
- To develop a plan to achieve those goals; and
- To take responsibility for the choices they make.

Approach: This approach honors the choice students make to attend class, enables them to recognize their ability to learn, and celebrates and builds on their successes. These values transform students' outlook on learning, helping them develop self-esteem and envision opportunities for the future.

Ombudsman students follow an academic program created to meet their specific needs and schedules. Students are responsible for following a prescribed learning path and complete most coursework on computers, so they receive immediate feedback and become familiar with tools they will use in college, trade or vocational school or the workplace. They also benefit from teacher-led small group instruction.

About Ombudsman Educational Services: Ombudsman Educational Services operates more than 100 learning centers serving more than 120 school districts in numerous states. Nearly 123,000 students have attended Ombudsman since it was founded in 1975, and 85 percent of Ombudsman students graduate, earn credits or return to their district school closer to or at grade level. Ombudsman helps districts increase graduation rates and decrease dropout rates, and measurably advances students' skill levels. Ombudsman is cost-effective for school districts and offers an untold societal cost benefit.

