



# Regional Achievement Academy

MONMOUTH OCEAN EDUCATIONAL SERVICES COMMISSION

ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION: HOW DO WE IMPROVE IT?

BIG CHANGES

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CONTACT US

Kathleen Miller

Principal

[kmiller@MOESC.org](mailto:kmiller@MOESC.org)

732-389-5555 ext. 1000



The New Year is under way and 2020 will bring many challenges and celebrations to education. We can only hope that the celebrations far out weigh the challenges. Educators like everyone else love to embrace and celebrate all of our accomplishments, However, those accomplishments require a great deal of hard work through collaborations and brainstorming.

In December, Dr. Tara Beams and Mrs. Kathleen Miller hosted a Lunch N Learn at RAA for staff and administrators in Ocean, Monmouth and Middlesex counties. Our focus was to create a cohort of educators to begin to peel back the many layers of Alternative Education relative to today's districts, schools, students, families and communities. Together we discussed :

- The changing needs of students
- Current resources as well as resources needed for improvement
- Constraints: in and out of the classroom
- Investigate the idea of shared services
- Key components to our current programs and criteria

Interestingly enough we had similar roadblocks and concerns that need to be addressed and focused on if alternative education is going to change to meet the needs of our students. Collectively as a group the passion and drive we have can make these changes become a reality and that is truly inspiring.

Our next steps:

- Create a Needs Assessment
- Determine what areas to focus on
- Build focus groups
- Create a time line for the work to be done

Our next meeting will be a Coffee Talk at the Regional Achievement Academy on Friday, April 3rd from 8-10 AM. Please email Kathleen Miller at [kmiller@moesc.org](mailto:kmiller@moesc.org) if you would like to be added to our educator list.

