

PACTT Affiliate Public Report

Agencies affiliated with the Pennsylvania Academic, Career and Technical Training (PACTT) Alliance have voluntarily agreed to meet standards in one or more of the following areas: Academics; work related services; and job skills training. Through their efforts, the affiliated agencies work to support goals outlined in the Advancing Competency Development: A White Paper for Pennsylvania and Pennsylvania’s Juvenile Act. These include, but are not limited to:

- Helping youth improve their chances of having a successful educational experience.
- Developing a set of study and learning skills and basic reading, writing, and math skills.
- Helping youth to catch up in school and advance in school to the highest possible level of academic achievement.
- Developing workforce skills for getting a job, keeping a job, and achieving promotion.
- Developing workforce programs that promote economic self-sufficiency, are grounded in principles of youth development, and connected to further education and long-term career opportunities.
- Helping older youth improve their chances of being economically self-sufficient after high school.
- Developing competencies that will enable youth to become responsible and productive members of the community.

Limitations of this report should be noted. Data included in the report includes only those youth that were determined by the affiliate to have successfully completed the program and were recommended for discharge. In addition, academic data does not include youth having received services for less than 90 days. As a result, the average length of stay for youth in the affiliation areas may differ. Data included in the report was based on self-reported information provided by the affiliated agency. Reports were generated, using the PACTT database, by the affiliate and reviewed by the affiliate for accuracy prior to being posted for public viewing.

Agency Information

Name:	Abraxas Academy
County Location of Program:	Berks
Program Type:	Secure Residential;
Genders Served:	Males only
Phone Number:	(610) 913-8000
Date Range of Data Included:	7/1/2021 - 12/31/2022
PACTT Affiliation Type(s):	
1. Academics	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
2. Work Related Services	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3. Job Skills Training	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Website:	http://www.abraxasyfs.com/

Program Description:

Located in Morgantown, Pennsylvania just minutes from the Pennsylvania Turnpike exit 298, Abraxas Academy is one of the few Joint Commission accredited and Sanctuary Model certified secure programs in the state of Pennsylvania.

The Abraxas Academy uses The Sanctuary Model® for Trauma Informed Care as the framework for treatment. The Sanctuary Model is a blueprint for clinical and organizational change which, at its core, promotes safety and recovery from adversity through the active creation of a trauma-informed community. Sanctuary emphasizes: the importance of healing from psychological and socially traumatic experiences; community principles; restoring connections with others; and mutual accountability through the S.E.L.F. Model and the Seven Commitments. The Seven Commitments include Non-Violence, Emotional Intelligence, Social Learning, Democracy, Open Communication, Social Responsibility, & Growth and Change.

Abraxas Academy, located in Morgantown, Pennsylvania is a multi-service facility which offers Secure Residential Treatment and Secure Detention Services.

Our secure residential treatment program provides specialized care for delinquent male youth between the ages of 14 to 18 in 9th grade or above. Treatment at the Academy is for youth who demonstrate a consistent display of delinquent patterns through multiple placements, serious charges, and problematic behaviors. Youth are admitted to the Academy for either habitual offending behaviors or for a history of sexual offending behavior.

Abraxas Academy opened in October of 2006 and is located in Morgantown, Pennsylvania. Abraxas Academy is classified as a secure residential treatment facility. It provides care and treatment to delinquent male adolescents who demonstrate a variety of issues including behavioral health and sexual offending. All residents are court ordered for care and treatment. Facility services are provided seven (7) days a week, twenty-four (24) hours a day.

Overview of General PACTT Requirements for all Affiliates:

- Utilize PACTT’s *Employability and Soft Skills Manual (ESSM)* with all youth, age 14 and older.
- Document ESSM training progress and at the discharge, includes this information as part of the youth’s educational record and probation discharge packet.
- Develop a discharge portfolio for youth that indicates their progress toward completion of competencies.
- Offer opportunities for remediation in numeracy and literacy, credit recovery and/or acceleration.
- For youth having a disability, facilitate their involvement with the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation.
- Assist youth in accessing career/technical training, post-secondary education and job placement opportunities.
- Offer at least one (1) of the following basic certificates: OSHA-10, ServSafe, MOS; International Computer Driving License (ICDL).

Soft Skills Instruction

Percentage of youth that participated in soft skills instruction

83%

The average number of employability soft skills completed per youth that completed the program (n=27)

13.4

Academic Affiliation

Overview of PACTT Academic Affiliation Requirements:

- *Maintain a rigorous academic curriculum fully aligned with Pennsylvania’s Academic Standards.*
- *Perform transcript audits for youth to prioritize education programming and to determine if any individual needs exist.*
- *Test youth upon admission to determine their academic abilities and to ensure appropriate placement in academic subjects.*
- *Test youth prior to discharge to identify educational gains made.*
- *Ensure the availability of certified Special Education teachers as required by the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE).*
- *Provide supports for youth who have special needs in their Individualized Education Program (IEP).*
- *Provide opportunities for youth to obtain a GED and connect them with post-secondary training and career opportunities.*
- *Request and transmits school records within the timeframe required by PDE.*
- *Provide individual case management to support youth’s transition to school.*
- *Provide supports for English Language Learners (ELL).*
- *Align academic courses and course descriptions with PDE’s Pennsylvania Information Management System (PIMS).*
- *Whenever possible, provide instruction through low youth-to-teacher ratios.*
- *Provide staff with regular professional development.*

Academic Report Information

Number of Discharged Youth Included in
the Academic Report

17

Average Calendar Days Between
Admission and Discharge Dates

231

Receipt of Academic Records

Percentage of transcripts/records
requested by the agency

100%

Percentage of transcripts/records received
prior to admission or within 10 business
days of making a request

100%

Percentage of transcripts/records received
after 10 business days of making a request

0%

Percentage of transcripts/records
requested and not received

0%

Academic Credits, Credit Recovery at Discharge & GED Preparation

For youth identified as needing accelerated courses, the percentage of youth that received the service.

86%

For youth identified as needing credit recovery, the percentage of youth that received the service.	81%
For youth identified as needing GED programming, the percentage of youth that were enrolled in GED preparation programming.	100%
For youth identified as needing to take the GED exam, the percentage of youth that took one or more sections of the exam.	50%
Average number of credits earned by youth that participated in academic programming.	4.65
For youth identified as needing postsecondary programming, the percentage of youth that received the service.	N/A

Diploma, GED and Postsecondary Academic Outcomes

For youth age 18 and above at the time of discharge with the goal of obtaining their high school diploma, the percentage of youth that achieved this goal.	86%
For youth age 18 and above at the time of discharge with the goal of earning a GED or equivalent, the percentage of youth that achieved this goal.	100%
For youth age 18 and above at the time of discharge with the goal of participating in postsecondary education, the percentage of youth that achieved this goal.	N/A

Improvements in Literacy

Percentage of youth showing improvement of more than one full grade level.	11.76%
Percentage of youth showing improvement of up to one full grade level.	70.59%
Percentage of youth showing no improvement.	5.88%
Percentage of youth who were unexpectedly discharged prior to completion of post test.	11.76%

Improvements in Numeracy

Percentage of youth showing improvement of more than one full grade level.	11.76%
Percentage of youth showing improvement of up to one full grade level.	64.71%
Percentage of youth showing no improvement.	11.76%

Percentage of youth who were unexpectedly discharged prior to completion of post test.

11.76%

Additional Academic Information

School license type.

Private Licensed

General description of how the agency provides instruction in the areas of English; mathematics, science, social studies; physical education and health; and fine arts.

The Abraxas Academy is an Approved Private Academic School and the Educational Administrative entity that governs the educational program. We offer an array of academic classes in English, mathematics, science, social studies, art, audio/visual production and media, health and Physical Education in a classroom setting with very low student to teacher ratios. We offer additional science electives in horticulture and botany. It is our goal to help students progress and meet the requirements to achieve an Abraxas Academy High School Diploma. We help students continue to gain academic credits for re-entry to their home school, or prepare them to graduate with a Commonwealth GED.

General description of academic services the agency provides beyond those required by the Department of Education.

If extra assistance is needed in an academic subject or more individualized intervention is needed, they are able to receive tutoring from our intervention specialist. This position is utilized in order to help students on a more one on one interaction. We also provide a life skills class to all of our students which teaches job skills training and follows the PACTT core comp entices throughout a 27 week curriculum.

General description of how the agency offers GED courses or makes them available through another entity.

Abraxas Academy is a certified testing center where students are not only able to be tutored for the GED but also able to take the GED tests at our facility.

General description of how the agency offers credit recovery courses or makes them available through another entity.

Students who are identified as needing credit recovery are enrolled into our credit recovery program.

Description of the agency's credit bearing/non-credit bearing summer school programming.

Our school runs on a five marking period academic school year-round

Description of the agency’s Special Education services.

Abraxas Academy's Special Education Department is comprised of the Special Education Teachers, Intervention Specialists, and a Special Education Supervisor. The facility offers Emotional and Learning Support. Any related service, such as Speech Therapy or Occupational Therapy is provided by an outside agency, which is arranged by the Special Education Supervisor. This service can be either provided in person or on the computer via a video chat. Intervention Specialists assist the teachers in both behavioral and educational support for the students with an IEP. The Intervention Specialist can also provide 1:1 assistance if the student is in need of it. This is not for full-time support, but for taking tests or completing assignments outside the class in which the student is struggling.

If a student has an out of state IEP or the Evaluation or Reevaluation Report that is out of date, Abraxas contracts with the Berks County Intermediate Unit to ensure testing is completed. This is the same case for an Evaluation or Reevaluation reports that need to be updated to meet PDE compliance. Also, in accordance with PDE, IEP meetings are held within 30 days of receiving the Special Education records for a student. The meetings are conducted in person or via phone.

Percentage of teachers with Special Education certificates. 13%

Description the agency’s English as Language Learner (ELL) academic services.

If a student enters our facility and is identified as a English Language Learner, the student is given copies of all the work in Spanish, as well as receiving the textbook in Spanish as well. Teachers are able to use google translate in order to help teach these students and in addition to utilizing a Spanish speaking staff to help assist the teachers.

Percentage of ELL teachers. 0%

Percentage of certified teachers the agency has to provide instruction in the core subjects. 100%

The agency offers the following types of learning: (Checkbox list: online, in-person, both online and in-person instruction) In-person Instruction

JOB SKILLS TRAINING

Overview of PACTT Job Skills Training Affiliation Requirements:

- Offer two or more certificates or certifications beyond what the agency offers at the basic level. (Basic level: General or industry specific OSHA-10, ServSafe Food Handler, at least one component of MOS; and the complete International Computer Driving License (ICDL).
- Offer certificates and certifications that have a logical connection with a high priority occupation (HPO) or employment opportunities specific to the community where the youth is or will be living on a full-time basis.
- In the areas of Programs of Study (POS), vocational programs, and certification or certificate programs:
 - Offer a POS, or make it available through another local academic program that meets the standards established by PDE; or
 - Offer vocational, certificate or certification programs that are offered by the agency that are not recognized as a POS according to PDE’s standards yet are taught by certified teachers or qualified individuals that hold the industry-recognized credentials needed to instruct the course.
- Have an agency administrator review and approve the POS lesson plans.
- Have instructors sign-off on competency lists demonstrating proficiency.
- Have lists of completed industry competencies follow youth at time of discharge that reflect the progress youth has made.
- Review the Department of Labor and Industry’s High Priority Occupations with youth, to include those from the region where they will be living.

Job Skills Training Report Information

Number of Discharged Youth Included in
 the Job Skills Training Report

13

Average Calendar Days Between
 Admission and Discharge Dates

213

Job Skills Training

For youth with the goal of participating in a vocational program, the percentage of youth that achieved this goal. 92%

For youth with the goal of earning an agency developed certificate or certification, the percentage of youth that achieved this goal. 70%

For Industry Recognized certificate goal information, please see the related section below.

Agency Developed Certifications/Certificates Obtained by Youth

List of names and frequency:

Applied Horticulture/Horticulture Operations (5), Carpentry/Carpenter (5), Commercial & Advertising Art (5), Digital Communications & Media/Multimedia (5), Animal Sciences (4), Cabinetmaking & Millwork (4), Agriculture (3), Drafting & Design Technology (3), Electrical & Power Transmission Installers (3), ServeSafe (3), Institutional Food Workers (1), Small Engine Repair (1)

Instructor Qualifications

Percentage of certified teachers or qualified individuals the agency has that teach its vocational, certificate and certification programs.

100%

Listing of Program Offerings

Programs of Study (POS) offered by the agency, or make available through another local academic program, that meet the standards established by the Department of Education (PDE).

Available industry-recognized certificates or certifications that are portable credentials validating that a youth successfully demonstrated skill competencies in a core set of content and performance standards in a specific set of work-related tasks.

American Red Cross - CPR/AED

American Red Cross - First Aid

ServSafe Food Handler

Vocational programs or certificate/certification programs that are offered by the agency that are not recognized as a POS yet are taught by certified teachers or qualified individuals that hold the industry recognized credentials needed to instruct the course.

*** Industry-recognized certifications and certificates are listed in the prior section of this report.*

- Agriculture
- Animal Sciences
- Applied Horticulture/Horticulture Operations
- Barbering
- Building/Property Maintenance
- Cabinetmaking & Millwork
- Carpentry/Carpenter
- Digital Communications & Media/Multimedia
- Electrical & Power Transmission Installers
- Institutional Food Workers
- Small Engine Repair

Delivery types of job skills opportunities provided by the agency. (Online, in-person, both online and in-person instruction)

In-Person Instruction

Industry Recognized Certifications/Certificates Obtained by Youth

For youth with the goal of earning an industry recognized certificate or certification, the percentage of youth that achieved this goal.

86%

List of names and frequency:

ServSafe Food Handler (4)

Additional Program Information

The Abraxas Academy has two residential programs: the Habitual Offenders Program and the Sexual Offenders Program.

The Habitual Offenders Treatment Program for males uses a comprehensive approach in providing treatment services to the residents. This is achieved through trauma informed cognitive behavioral therapy with a strong emphasis on functional behavior assessment and behavioral treatment. The program milieu and curriculum utilize the principles of BARJ, Applied Behavioral Analysis and a cognitive distortions component. On-Track: Overcoming Life's Hurdles a habitual offender specific group curriculum provides a treatment emphasis is placed on identifying and correcting potentially harmful patterns of thought, improving social skills, teaching problem solving skills and developing an awareness of the community and victim, while altering target pro-social and maladaptive behaviors.

The Sexual Offenders Program is designed to provide specialized treatment services to sexual offenders. This specific program is an evidenced based approach to sex offender treatment utilizing the Risks-Needs-Responsivity (RNR) model of offender rehabilitation addressing the "big" three rehabilitation principles of risk, need, and responsivity. Residents are taught to be accountable for their actions and recognize the consequences of inappropriate behavior. The program places a strong emphasis on assisting residents to improve social skills and maintain awareness of their own sexual past

Reference:

Torbet, P. and Thomas, D. (2005). *Advancing Competency Development: A White Paper for Pennsylvania*. Pittsburgh, PA: National Center for Juvenile Justice.