



Parent & Student Handbook

Project Believe Overview

The STPPS Project Believe program is designed in accordance to the definition of alternative education programs set for in R.S. 17:416.2 ©.

Alternative education programs have been designed to offer variations of traditional instructional programs and strategies to increase the likelihood for unmotivated, unsuccessful, or disruptive students in traditional school environments to remain in school and obtain a high school diploma. Project Believe holds students to strict standards of behavior in a highly structured “boot camp” environment.

Mission

Our mission is to **educate, train, and inspire** the cadets so graduates are highly motivated, self-disciplined leaders of character committed to the values of becoming successful life-long learning citizens prepared for a career of professional excellence and service to their self and community.

Vision

Our vision is to create a highly structured learning environment that will transition students back to their traditional school setting equipped with the academic and behavioral skills necessary to reach graduation.

Program Description and Purpose

Project Believe is an alternative to expulsion offered to at-risk students inside the STPPS. Students participating in the alternative setting at PB will be enrolled in core curriculum, engage in physical training, participate in military-focused drill activities, and attend graduation ceremonies all led by drill instructors, facilitators, and Administration.

We utilize a 2-phase graduation system at PB and have tailored it with guidelines, and privileges to encourage students to earn their way back into the traditional school setting. The minimum assignment to PB is **45 calendar school days** for a student to obtain successful completion of the program, yet, the administration of PB will use his/her discretion before the final decision of a student’s return is granted.

Project Believe focuses on the following daily operations:

- Provide a high-quality education through a variety of teaching methods.
- Provide physical training that re-focuses the students’ overall self-worth.
- Provide a highly structured learning environment that is conducive to continuously improving all students academically, behaviorally, socially, and emotionally.
- Promote self-improvement through a strict focus on the 7 habits of highly effective people.
- Promote and increase student awareness of individual accountability by focusing on attendance, good behavior, academic responsibility.

Guidelines for Completion

Goal: Our daily operations are centered around the end goal of successfully transitioning the student back to their home-based school better equipped to receive their high school diploma.

We **believe** creating a supportive and collaborative network composed of the student, parents/guardians, and faculty/staff here at Project Believe will aid in a successful completion of our mission.

Individual and group conferences will be held daily with the student to establish a baseline of data, which will be used to help measure student progress within the program. The data points will be focused around academic and behavioral progress coupled with overall performance to determine if the student is progressing through the phases explained below of Project Believe.

- **Phase 1 (Entry Level)**

- Cadets will be required to wear a **navy-blue polo shirt**, Black BDU pants, and desert tan jungle boots. Daily uniform inspections will be conducted prior to boarding the bus each morning.
- Duration of Phase I is 22 school days at a minimum.
- Completion of Phase 1 will be granted if the cadet has illustrated:
 - Acceptable attendance record that may not exceed 2 unexcused absences
 - Good behavior in regards to discipline not exceed to 2 minor disciplinary infractions
 - Must have a **67%** or higher in all classes.
 - Proper effort during Physical Training (PT) determined by assigned drill instructor

- **Phase 2 (Platinum Level)**

- Cadets will be required to wear a **grey/platinum polo shirt, black BDU pants, and desert jungle boots** during this phase.
- Duration of Phase 2 will be the remainder of the cadets' time at Project Believe.
 - Cadet can be demoted back to Phase I if required progress is not being met.
- During Phase 2 the cadet must continue to:
 - Maintain acceptable attendance record
 - Exhibit good behavior
 - Achieve a 67% or higher in all classes
 - Strive and exhibit progress during Physical Training
- All continued requirements outlined in Phase I
- Completion of Phase 2 will be granted upon submission of required essay

Students must serve a minimum of 45 days in the alternative setting. Unexcused absences will extend the students graduation/return date. Project Believe reserves the right to extend the graduation/return date in regards to the above evaluation guidelines.

Project Believe Motto

*Believe in yourself
Believe in your hopes
Believe in your dreams
We Believe in you!*

Rules and Regulations:

- **Students are not allowed to attend any STPPS school or district sponsored events other than those on Project Believe's campus during their enrollment period.**
- **Participation in all assigned academic classes, drill activities, and ceremonies is a requirement of the program.**
- **Students are required to wear the Project Believe para-military uniform each day.**
 - A document outlining the required garments of our uniform will be issued to the parent upon registration. The student will not be allowed to begin the program until he/she is in proper attire upon arrival to the appropriate morning bus pick-up site.
 - Additional dress-code requirements include:
 - i. **Hair:** All hair must be clean, well-groomed, and have no lines cut in the hair line or eyebrows. No Mohawks, braids, dreadlocks etc.
 1. **Males** – must have a neat military style haircut with a length of no more than 1 inch on top of the head.
 - a. NO head Covering for males are allowed.
 2. **Females** – with long hair must have it secured tightly in a bun with a hair tie of some sort.
 - a. No head coverings for females are allowed.
 - ii. Females may wear earrings in their ears only.
 1. Nose piercings, necklaces, and rings are not allowed at Project Believe.
 2. Males are asked to remove all jewelry and/or accessories prior to boarding the bus each morning.
 - iii. Females may not have fake nails longer than a ¼" from the fingertip.
 - iv. No outside food or beverages are allowed on the bus or campus.
 - v. Students will address all staff at Project Believe using proper manners, such as Yes Sir/No Mam and Yes Master SGT/ No Staff SGT.
- **Cell Phones are not allowed on Project Believe's campus.**
 - Any and all electronic devices found on the student will be confiscated and a person on the student's emergency card must come and retrieve it from Project Believe.
 - No cell phones will be issued back to the student, and more stringent disciplinary action will be taken upon repeat offenses.

- **Parent/Guardian is not only responsible for transporting student to appropriate transportation site each morning, but also picking up their student every afternoon from the appropriate site.**
 - In the event a student misses the bus, the parent must contact Project Believe and have the student arrive to campus before 1st Period, which begins at 9:35am.
 - Part of the requirement with Project believe is for the cadet to ride the bus from each designated site during their assigned time.
- **STPPS district policy in regards to absences outlined in the Student Handbook will be strictly followed.**
 - Excused absences will be granted once the proper documentation is submitted to the Project Believe administration.
 - An unexcused absence will result in the student’s graduation/return date being extended 1 full school day per absence.
 - In the event a student misses 3 consecutive days and no communication is established with parent/guardian with administration the student will be turned over to Truancy.
- **The student is not allowed to bring any other items besides the STPPS issued Chromebook and/or charger.**
 - Any items confiscated will not be issued back to the student. Parent/Guardian must come to Project Believe in order to collect wanted items.
- **Personal vehicles are not allowed at Project Believe, therefore NO student is allowed to drive to Project Believe.**

PARENT/GUARDIAN & STUDENT STATEMENT OF ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FOR PROJECT BELIEVE

We have reviewed and received a copy of Project Believe’s Parent & Student Handbook. We agree to follow all the policies and procedures outlined in this handbook. I also understand that these policies may be changed or eliminated at any time by Project Believe’s administration.

Printed Parent/Guardian Name

Printed Student Name

Parent/Guardian Signature:

Student(s) Signature:

Date:

Principal’s Signature