

History of Open Education and the Ann Arbor Open Program

Open education is not new to Ann Arbor

1971: Ann Arbor had six informal classrooms which were precursors to an open school program.

1972: Community High School was formed.

1975: Thirty-six informal classrooms in thirteen different schools accommodated 95% of the students whose parents requested informal classrooms.

1976: Middle Years Alternative was established and housed in the Forsythe School building.

1982: First through sixth grade open school program replaced the informal classrooms. 252 students and 10 teachers were divided into two groups. One group shared the facilities at the Wines School building, the other at Pattengill.

1986: The kindergarten through sixth grade students were given their own principal and facility. Bach Open School was established.

1989: The sixth grade joined the Middle Years Alternative School. Bach Open School was modified to Kindergarten through Fifth grades.

1998: Bach Open School moved to the Mack School building and was renamed Ann Arbor Open. The school was modified to include sixth graders in anticipation of becoming a Kindergarten through Eighth grade open school.

1999: Seventh grade added.

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