

WHAT IS CAAEL?

CAAEL, a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit, is a powerful tool that schools and teachers have been using for more than 40 years to help at-risk/special education students succeed. CAAEL offers over 900 events to more than 5,000 students from 30 Illinois counties every year.

Used throughout the school day, it motivates these students to come to school, complete their assignments and behave appropriately. CAAEL is integrated directly into each school's curriculum and incentive program, thus providing alternative schools a powerful set of tools to build hope and change lives.

Through CAAEL's emphasis on sportsmanship, leadership and teamwork vs. winning and losing, educators use their CAAEL membership to teach the skills needed to be both successful students and productive citizens.



OUR MISSION

To eliminate the critical interscholastic athletic and activity gap created when at-risk/special education students are removed from the educational mainstream due to severe behavioral and emotional problems.



CONTACT US

CAAEL relies on its volunteers in a variety of capacities. If you believe in what we are doing, CAAEL is a great way to give back to your community.



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CHICAGO AREA
ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION LEAGUE



CAAEL IS COMPREHENSIVE

CAAEL offers an extensive scope of both athletic and nonathletic programs which are held **during the school day**. CAAEL students are required to meet **attendance**, **academic** and **behavioral** criteria throughout the week in order to participate in CAAEL practices and events. Through the use of eligibility criteria, CAAEL becomes an essential component of each school's daily procedures and operations.

CAAEL serves a wide range of students with respect to age, gender, disabilities, abilities, race, socioeconomic background, and culture. These students attend public and private schools, off-campus and on-campus programs, Special Education, as well as Truants' Alternative and Optional Education Programs, hospital-affiliated programs, residential schools, and therapeutic day schools.



CAAEL IS SPORTSMANSHIP

With every event's emphasis on positive leadership and sportsmanship rather than winning, CAAEL students build character and learn necessary social skills.

Throughout the school day and at CAAEL events, students learn how to interact positively with peers, show respect for authority figures, work as a team, demonstrate compassion and tolerance, win and lose gracefully, make thoughtful decisions and accept both the positive and negative consequences of their decisions.



- CAAEL engages alienated youth and helps reintegrate them back into the mainstream.
- CAAEL is a powerful motivator and offers hope of a brighter future for our most vulnerable youth.
- CAAEL is the only organization providing this broad scope programming for Illinois' growing number of high-risk youth.

CAAEL IS COST EFFECTIVE

Because it is based on partnerships rather than direct student intervention, CAAEL is extremely cost effective. The programs are delivered through each school's instructional staff, utilizing its own physical resources and transportation system. By incorporating the programs into already existing services through specialized training and support, CAAEL impacts the education of thousands of youth annually at minimal per student cost.

CAAEL eliminates unnecessary duplication of efforts and services. By customizing the leagues and events for this specific population and managing the network of member schools, each partner's limited resources remain available to address the myriad of other challenges inherent in educating these youth.

