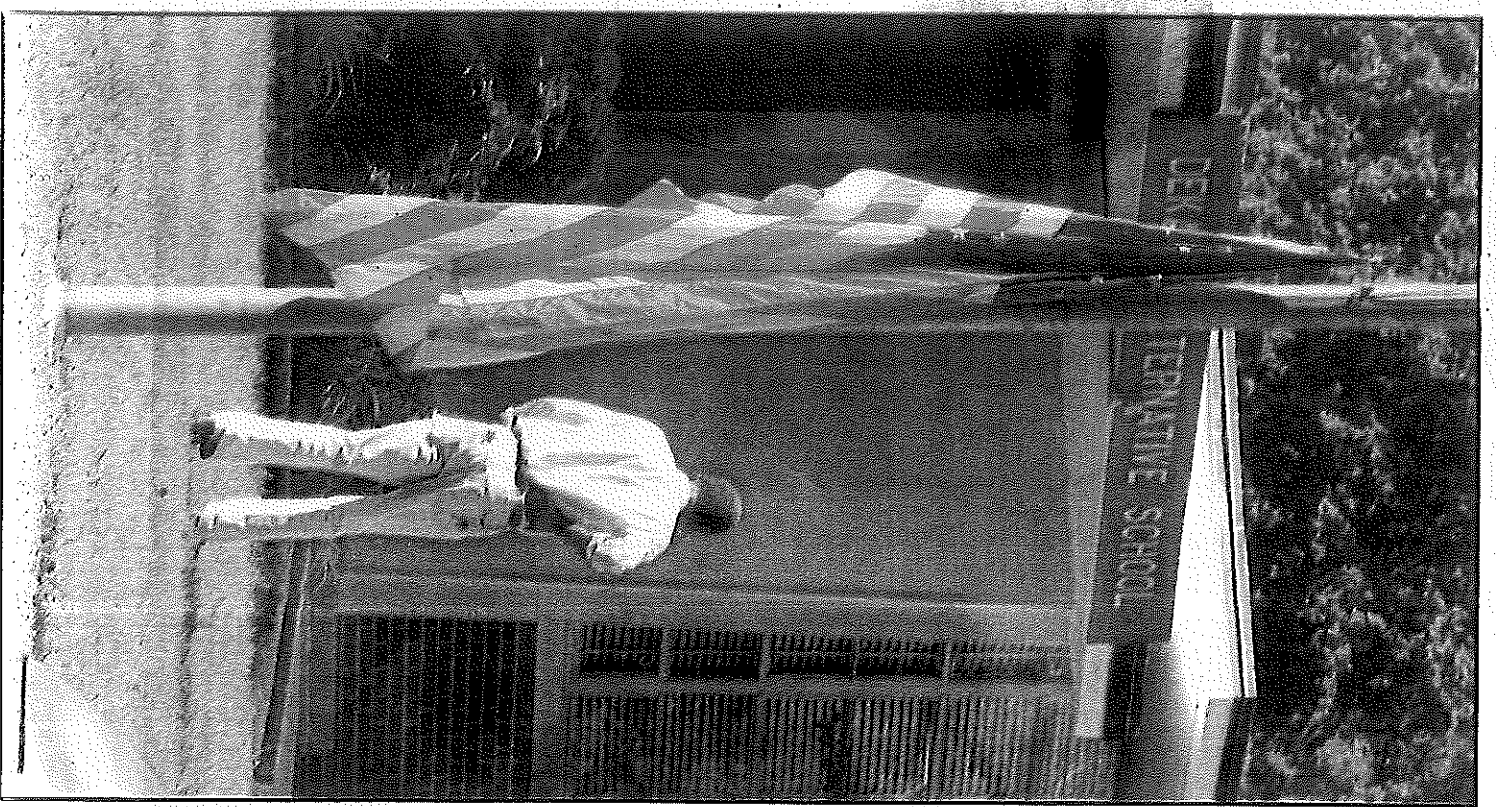


AI DEKALB ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL



ALTERNATIVE SCHOOLS

15,000 get a second chance

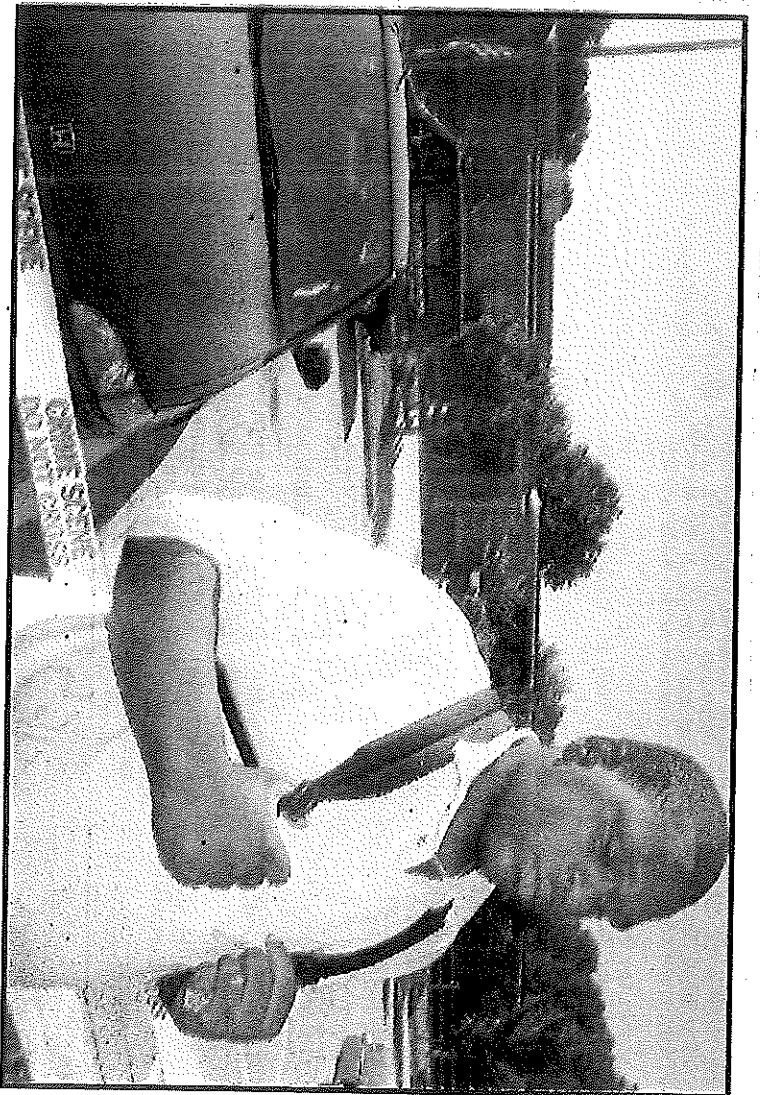
Georgia's alternative schools were created to take students with attendance, discipline and social problems from regular classrooms and give them a second chance.

Today, about 15,000 students attend the state's 121 alternative schools, which offer smaller classes and access to social services. For the last three years, the state has set

aside at least \$13 million a year for local systems to operate these schools.

Places such as DeKalb Alternative School often take in students after they've committed offenses ranging from fighting to, in some cases, having weapons at school.

Some, plagued by health, home and classroom problems, seek out alternative programs in hopes of improving their grades. Still others are placed in alternative schools as they make the transition from the state's juvenile detention centers back into mainstream classrooms.



JOHN SPINK / Staff