

**ALLIANCE PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
ALTERNATIVE HIGH SCHOOL  
2021-2022 School Year**



*Relevance – Rigor – Relationships*

**Alliance High School Ag Building, Rooms 514 & 517  
1450 Box Butte Ave  
Alliance, NE 69301  
Phone 308-762-3359**

**Alan Van Tilburg, Principal  
Ms. Robyn Iossi, Para-Educator  
Mrs. Kalene White, Para-Educator  
Amanda Dopheide, Job Coach**

**ALLIANCE PUBLIC SCHOOLS MISSION STATEMENT**

*To develop in all students the individual skills, the desire for knowledge, and the personal commitment essential for a successful future.*

**ALLIANCE ALTERNATIVE HIGH SCHOOL MISSION STATEMENT**

*Individualized to address unique needs,  
the Alliance Alternative High School will provide the educational opportunities  
needed to empower students to successfully meet the challenges of our changing world.*

**PHILOSOPHY**

Students, when offered the appropriate environment, can experience educational success. The traditional educational model, effective as it may be for most of our students, does not provide the right environment for some students. The Alliance Alternative High School will be student rather than department centered. Its

curriculum will be built upon the needs of the individual students as well as the state and district mandated standards.

We believe that obtaining and maintaining excellence in education is the standard by which we should and will measure the performance of our educational system. We believe in the inherent ability of the individual to learn and to achieve an education that is meaningful.

**A special thanks to the Valley Alternative Learning Transition School (VALTS) for sharing their student handbook and allowing us to incorporate key pieces into our document.**

### **PROGRAM DESCRIPTION**

Alliance Alternative High School offers the same basic curriculum as the main high school campus and incorporates alternative delivery methods, structures, and supports. These include:

- Small size
- Flexible scheduling
- Individual educational planning
- Work-Based and Service Learning
- Accountability and constant evaluation
- Supplemental reading, writing, and mathematics programs
- College course work
- Broad participation of family and community
- Well defined standards and rules
- Targeted services
- Opportunities for community involvement

Effective alternative schools serve a segment of the population whose needs differ from others. They are not exclusively remediation centers. They are also designed to meet the needs of gifted students.

### **PROGRAM GOALS**

**The program goals are as follows:**

- A. To provide a caring, diversified, learning environment where students will develop positive self-concepts, increase their self-esteem, and recognize and appreciate the correlation between education and success in the work place.
- B. To provide alternative ways (e.g., flexibility in scheduling, individualized instruction, college preparation, work-based learning) for students to achieve high school graduation resulting in an increased graduation rate.
- C. To provide coursework that addresses both lagging skills and college preparedness.
- D. To provide support via job coaching and credit opportunities for students employed in the community.
- E. To provide opportunities for community involvement and service learning.
- F. To utilize innovative student performance assessments that measure student progress.
- G. To be accountable to the community and the school district through quality student achievement, goal development, and goal attainment.

- H. To certify that, upon completion of a course, students will have reached or surpassed the district and state performance standards and, in addition, will have adequate knowledge and skills to continue to the next level or course in any school within the district.
- I. To assist students and their families in their efforts to access human assistance programs and counseling services.

### **CURRICULUM & DELIVERY**

The academic program offers standards-based programs and career-oriented programs in science, social studies, math, English and communication skills as well as a variety of electives and career and technical education courses. Socialization skills, job skills training, and problem solving are also emphasized. Courses are delivered in the classrooms, through APEX, an internet platform, and at the main high school campus. Students can also take two elective classes in the main building each semester if they elect to.

Because the staff is small, we work together to help each student achieve the necessary requirements for grade level advancement and graduation. Each student's program is individualized to meet graduation requirements. The district's advisory board reviews curricular offerings and makes recommendations with regards to content, delivery methods, and time in coursework.

Advisory Board Membership:

- Alternative High School Principal
- High School Principal
- Superintendent
- School board representative
- Special Education Director
- Director of Instructional Services
- Others as appropriate

### **EXPECTED OUTCOMES**

**The expected outcomes of the program are as follows:**

- *Increased proficiency in basic skills*
- *Increased standardized test scores*
- *Increased career/vocational exploration and involvement*
- *Increased skills in conflict resolution*
- *Increased career choices*
- *Increased student self-confidence*
- *Increased student productive behavior*
- *Increased student attendance*
- *Increased student recognition of relevancy between education and employment*

### **TARGET POPULATION**

**Below are characteristics of students whose needs can best be met through an alternative program:**

- Students at risk of dropping out and/or not meeting cohort graduation dates

- Students whose educational success is, in part, dependent on non-academic support (e.g., flex scheduling, counseling, child care, medical considerations, work)
- Students in need of a smaller and more personalized learning environment
- Students who have exhausted the educational opportunities at the school's main campus
- Students with a demonstrated need for consistency in instructional staff, curriculum, and/or scheduling
- Students whose individual instructional pacing needs do not fit the traditional means of instructional delivery
- Students whose talents significantly exceed their performance
- Students with deficiencies in basic skills
- Students wanting to have a second chance to complete their education
- 

### **APPLICATION PROCEDURES**

Students wishing to apply for enrollment in the Alliance Alternative High School must submit to the Alliance High School a written request (included at the end of document) signed by both the student and his/her parent/guardian. The request must clearly describe challenges at the current school, efforts to address the challenges, and ways the Alternative High School may better meet the educational needs of the student.

All applications will be reviewed by the high school administrative team (high school principal and assistant principal, alternative school principal, and others as deemed appropriate) to determine placement. The referral will describe Student Assistance Team interventions and how the Alternative Program may be a better fit for the student.

While all applications will be reviewed on an individual basis, placement priority will be given to senior level as well as fifth and sixth year seniors with a minimum number of credits needed to complete graduation requirements.

Placement on a waiting list will be necessary should the Alternative High School experience full capacity (25 enrolled students). Priority for the waiting list positions will follow the same guidelines as placement in the program and therefore, current enrollees who demonstrate excessive absences, minimal or no course completion, and rule violation jeopardize their continuing enrollment in the program.

### **CRITERIA FOR ADMISSION**

Resident or option students who are or have been enrolled in the public school, need an alternative educational model, are recommended by the student's parents and teachers, and are approved by high school administration may qualify for free admission into the program. **Fall 2021 Requirements:**

- A. Must have attained a minimum of 100 credits prior to admittance**
- B. Must have not missed more than 10 days of school in current or previous semester depending on application time. (Medically excused accepted)**
- C. Student cannot be at risk of expulsion to apply. All applications must be 25 points or less in 1<sup>st</sup> quarter, 50 points or less in second quarter, and 75 points or less in third quarter.**

**D. Current students will be grandfathered into Alternative School. Attendance or discipline issues may be transferred out of Alternative School.**

- Expressed desire to be part of the program
- Expressed desire to achieve graduation
- If a student has qualified for special education services, they must demonstrate one year of success in the regular education program.
- Reasonable student expectation to complete the program within one year of cohort graduation class.
- Agrees to abide by conditions and rules established for the program.
- Completion of a successful intake interview.

Students may choose to register for regular school courses in addition to those taken through the alternative program. Students wishing to participate in regular school extra-curricular activities must be enrolled in at least 4 courses or its equivalent. Main campus eligibility criteria apply.

### **ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS-ALLIANCE GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS**

Required course requirements for graduation from the Alliance Alternative High School remain the same as for all other Alliance High School students.

### **ELECTIVE CREDITS**

Students may earn elective credits for graduation through one or a combination of the options listed below:

- Elective Courses:** Students may receive elective credits by exceeding the requirements in the core subjects or through the completion of coursework offered at the main high school campus, approved on-line venues, college courses, and other approved options.
- Work-Based Learning:** Elective credit may be awarded for participation in a school to work program. Credits are awarded based on verification of hours worked (e.g., pay stub, time sheet) and acceptable performance evaluation. Maximum of **60** credits allowed toward cohort graduation requirements.
- Student Cadet:** Elective credit may be awarded for participation in a student cadet program upon recommendation of the job coach and/or principal. Credits are awarded at the rate of 2.5 credits per class per semester or 5 credits per class (with administrator approval) if considerable lesson preparation is involved. Maximum of **10** credits allowed toward graduation requirements.

### **ADDITIONAL ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS**

Upon admission, the student's file will include a transcript, State Assessment Scores, a listing of all courses required for graduation, and a completed Individual Learning Plan (ILP).

Students who lack the skills to complete Core Requirements (e.g., low assessment scores, F or Incomplete grades on transcripts) may be assigned adaptive (i.e., identifies current level and students progress on individualized learning paths) Reading, Writing, and Mathematics coursework as elective, core, and/or credit recovery.

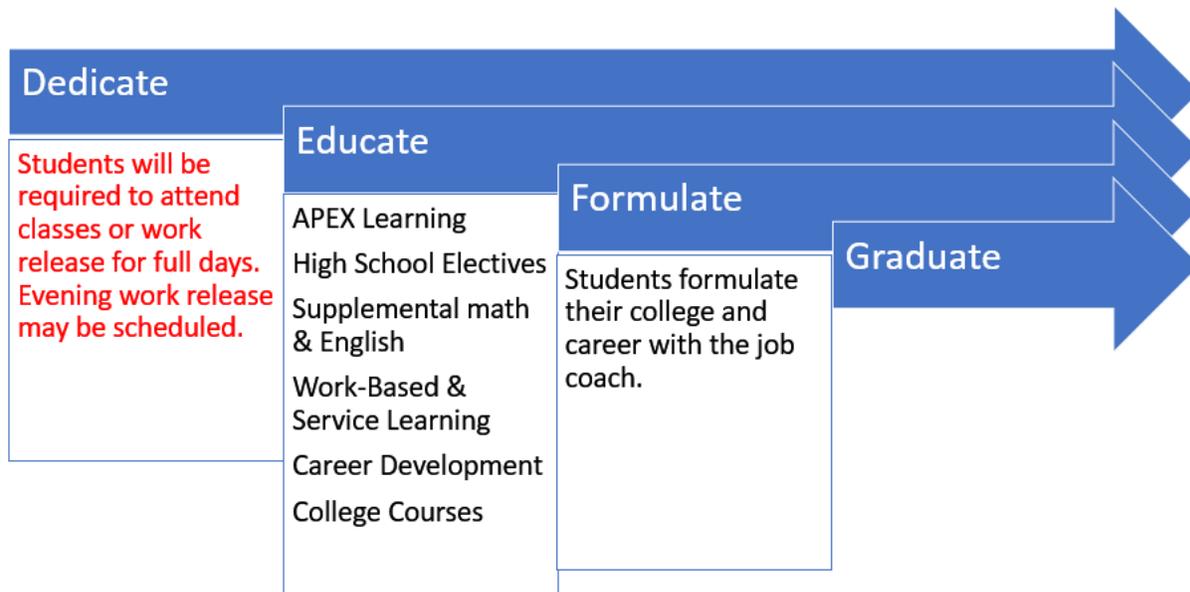
Students who are not on track to graduate with their cohort class are required to attend summer school. Summer school location, dates and times will be determined on an annual basis.

### **COURSE COMPLETION EXPECTATIONS**

Alternative High School students are expected to complete courses at a rate that facilitates on-time graduation or grade level promotion. To accommodate students who prefer completing courses one at a time, credits will be awarded in the quarter they are earned.

To graduate with their cohort, students are expected to be involved in a work-based program. This program must be organized as a partnership between an employer and the school with specific job targets and job skills outlined and monitored throughout the duration of employment. Credit for work will be given after the assessment is completed by the employer and approved by the job coach and/or principal.

## **Alliance Alternative High School Path to College and Career Readiness**



## **Alliance Alternative High School Location**

The school will be moved into Ag Building classrooms to allow for access to high school classes. The Alternative Principal will continue to run the academic/work portion of school as principal. The high school administration will handle attendance and discipline issues with the Alternative Principal's input.

## **Alliance Alternative High School Schedule & Configuration**

Students will be required to attend classes or work release for full days. Evening work release may be scheduled. The Alliance High School Bell Schedule will be followed.

### **BREAKFAST AND LUNCH**

Main campus and/or delivered to Alternative Classrooms by Alternative Program staff

### **SCHEDULE CHANGES**

Alternative Principal and student for online classes; for High School electives, the student presents request to Alternative Principal who contacts the High School Guidance Counselor

**APS School Board Policy & APS Parent Student Handbook apply except as noted in this Appendix**

## **STATEMENT of NON-DISCRIMINATION**

It is the policy of Alliance Public Schools not to discriminate on the basis of gender, disability, race, color, religion, marital status, age or national origin in its education programs, administration, policies, employment, or other district programs.



**ALLIANCE PUBLIC SCHOOLS ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION APPLICATION**

**Complete the following application and send it to the address listed at the bottom of the form.**

Student \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Current Grade \_\_\_\_\_ Expected Graduation Date \_\_\_\_\_

Parents/Guardians \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_

**Please check the following as reasons to be considered for admission to the Alternative School: (All information is confidential and will only be shared with admission committee)**

- |                                                                           |                                                                       |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Attendance                                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Fighting/Altercations                        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Medical                                          | <input type="checkbox"/> 5 <sup>th</sup> /6 <sup>th</sup> year Senior |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Emotional/Mental Health                          | <input type="checkbox"/> Anxiety                                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Struggle with substance abuse                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Behavioral                                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Failure to meet graduation requirements          | <input type="checkbox"/> Court ordered                                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Peer pressure at main campus                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Work obligations                             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family obligations (e.g., have a child/children) | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                                 |

Please give a detailed description of the challenges you have encountered at the high school, efforts to address the challenges, & ways attending the Alternative High School will help you be successful: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ (continue on back if needed)

**Additional Criteria—Beginning Fall 2019**

- A. Attained at least 100 credits
- B. No more than absent 10 days for the current/previous semester (unless Medically excused)
- C. Not at risk of expulsion (i.e., 25 points or less 1<sup>st</sup> quarter, 50 points or less in 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter, & 75 points or less in 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter)

Are you currently receiving Special Education Services?  yes  no

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature                      Parent/Guardian Signature                      School Official

Send this completed form to:  
**Mr. George Clear, Alliance Public High School, 1604 Sweetwater, Alliance, NE 69301**

\*\*\*\*\*  
(Office Use Only) \_\_\_\_\_ Approved                      \_\_\_\_\_ Not Approved                      \_\_\_\_\_ Date