

Profile of Alliance High School

Alliance High School is located at 1450 Box Butte Avenue in Alliance, Nebraska. The city of Alliance is found in the center of the Panhandle of Nebraska, on the western edge of the Sandhills. The population of Alliance has declined 5% since the 2000 census to approximately 8500 residents.

Four hundred fifty students attend Alliance High School in grades 9-12. This is a 14.6% drop in enrollment since the 2011-2012 school year when the enrollment was 529, a 34.5% drop in enrollment since the 2001-2002 school year when 690 students attended AHS. The current student population consists of 70% Caucasian, 19% Hispanic, 8% American Indian, 2% Black or African American, and 1% Asian/Pacific. The staff at AHS has experienced a corresponding decrease in number. This has presented a challenge to providing a variety of interesting and rigorous classes as well as supervisory and support services.

Alliance High School faces other challenges due to the makeup of the student population. Approximately 20% of the students receive special education services. The poverty rate in our school district is over 50% based on the number of students receiving free or reduced lunches. The mobility rate for the students at AHS is 13.25% and this does not include all the students who leave for several weeks in the middle of the year to visit family in Texas or Mexico.

Student achievement scores at AHS are below the state averages as measured by the Nebraska State Assessments (NeSA). Students made some gains in reading and significant gains were made in writing; however, our students did not close the gap in math. In 2017, the state of Nebraska adopted the ACT as the high school Junior assessment. The switch to the ACT will force some adjustments in course objectives as the Nebraska State Department of Education re-evaluates its objectives in language arts, math, and science. There is no formal state assessment for 9th or 10th grades.

Academic achievement of students in grades 9 through 11 is assessed twice each year with the Measure of Academic Progress (MAP) test from Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA) for reading and math. All grade levels achieved at least a 5% increase in the number of students considered proficient in math last year. Ninth and eleventh graders also gained at least 5% in reading, while tenth graders increased a more modest 1.2% that year.