



# What Is Alternative Education?

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Alternative education is more of a perspective than a program. It is built upon the beliefs that there are many varied ways to become educated, many types of educational environments, and different structures. Further, alternative education recognizes that everyone can be educated and it is in society's best interest to ensure that all are educated to at the minimum, a general high school education at the mastery level. To accomplish this requires that we provide a variety of strategies and options. Each student can find a "path" that is comfortable to facilitate individual learning and progress. The heart of alternative education is the teacher. Students involved in alternative education schools indicate that **the most important characteristic of teachers is that they care for students**. Alternative educator Emmanuel Pariser says the "most powerful influence on students is friendly attention in a supportive atmosphere." A variety of IUSD educational settings provide learners choices to meet personal needs, styles, and goals. Creekside High School and San Joaquin High School (Independent Study) are two IUSD school options.

## The Alternative Education Mission

The mission of the alternative education schools and programs of the Irvine Unified School District is to equip our students with a core of knowledge and skills that prepares them academically, socially, and emotionally to be responsible, contributing members of an increasingly diverse global community.

## Beliefs

Alternative Education in the Irvine Unified School District is based upon the following beliefs:

- ✓ All students can learn and succeed in a variety of ways.
- ✓ Learning is greatest when there are the highest expectations for student achievement.
- ✓ Confidence and competency build upon each other to enhance a student's sense of responsibility.
- ✓ There are many types of environments and structures for learning to occur.
- ✓ Alternative learning environments develop belonging, mastery, independence, and generosity.
- ✓ Learning is an active partnership between students, parents, community, and the school.
- ✓ Learning is evidenced by students' abilities to share what they know and what they can do.
- ✓ Learning is a life long process.

## The 3 A's ... Attendance, Attitude & Achievement

Think about "The Three A's." In fact, think "straight A's" --- Attendance, Attitude & Achievement.

### Attendance

**Remember our motto is "Every Day Is A New Day To Succeed." Today you can and will do better (that's the attitude thing). LEARN from yesterday. Also, remember, we are here to help . . . so take advantage of us . . . be here!** Your consistent attendance cannot be overemphasized and you are in charge and control of yourself.

### Attitude

Your attitude, how you look at the world, will provide you the greatest chance for success. Much has been written about the "power of positive thinking" and clearly, if we see and think positively, we act and feel proactively about what we are doing, and what others are doing for us. Conversely, negative thoughts have an opposite, breaking-down effect. If we think negatively, negative things happen, and we see the bad, not the good, in our world. Because we are confronted daily with potential negatives, **developing a positive attitude toward life is essential** to combating and overcoming negative events and circumstances. Think positively and good will follow!

### Achievement

Achievement means accomplishment. **When you accomplish, you grasp goals and experience happiness.** Our ultimate goal, (and we believe you want this also), is for you to earn your high school diploma and be prepared for post-high school opportunities, whether your return to your former high school or graduate from here.

### Our Guarantee To You

**If you attend daily, develop a positive mind-set, and stay disciplined, you will accomplish your goals!**