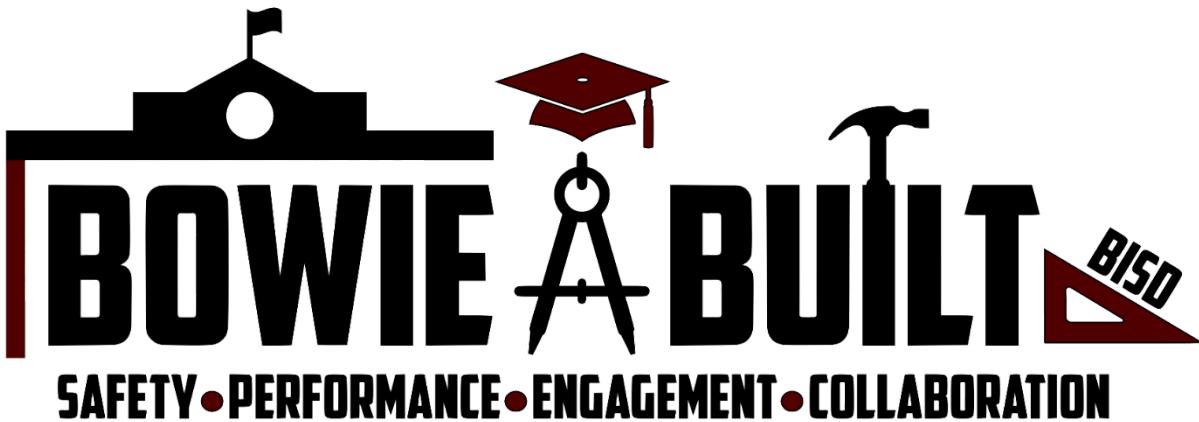


Bowie ISD Accelerated Learning Academy Student Handbook

(High School Grade Levels)

School Year 2025-26



**703 Roberts Street
Bowie, TX 76230**

**Front Desk: (940) 689-2934
Administrative Office: (940) 689-2933**

Please consult the 2025-26 Bowie ISD Student Handbook for additional information concerning policies and procedures pertaining to Bowie ISD students.

2025-26 ALA Staff

- David E. Smith, Administrator
- Brandi Henson, ALA Monitor
- Rebecca Graves, Math Instruction Support
- Christy Baker, Certified Teacher

Program Overview

Established in 2014, Bowie High School's Accelerated Learning Academy (ALA) provides an accelerated graduation pathway in an alternative setting for at-risk students who are best served academically in a nontraditional, self-paced educational setting.

ALA Mission: ALA's mission is to develop an accelerated, self-paced high school learning environment and graduation trajectory that clearly charts a pathway for the empowerment of at-risk students, so that they can become productive members of the community and the larger society in which the community is situated.

ALA Vision: ALA's vision is to provide the school community with a high quality, accelerated graduation pathway based on a philosophy of continual improvement, so that all BISD high school students have the ability to graduate and achieve their full potential.

Admission Process

ALA admissions are determined by Bowie High School. Eligible students who complete the application process are placed into the ALA program by Bowie High School administration. At-risk Bowie High School students who are interested in the program should contact the upper-level BHS Counselor to discuss the applications process:

Rayla Higginbotham
Counselor, 11th through 12th Grade
rayla.higginbotham@bowieisd.net
(940) 689-2806

ALA Rules and Guidelines

1. **Intake Meetings** – Parents/guardians and student(s) are strongly encouraged to attend an intake meeting together with the ALA campus administrator when the student is assigned to

the ALA campus. This meeting will typically take place prior to the student's first day of attendance at the ALA campus. If no meeting takes place, all forms requiring a signature will be sent home with the student for parent completion.

2. **Coursework** – For the 2025-26 school year, the [Edmentum](#) platform will be used to provide ALA students with initial credit and credit recovery courses required for graduation. These online courses, which include videos, text, and interactive content, are fully aligned with the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) and are assigned to ALA students by the Bowie High School counselor(s). Supplemental projects, portfolios, and other assignments may also be assigned by the high school campus counselor(s) to ALA students for the purpose of course completion and credit attainment.
3. **Academic Expectations** – Students are expected to attentively view and comprehend all lesson materials included in the assigned Edmentum courses that must be completed to fulfill the students' graduation plans. This process will require students to actively engage with lesson materials, take notes, and review course content in order to successfully complete assignments.

Students may not use internet resources to engage in any form of academic dishonesty. Abuse of internet resources, including artificial intelligence services (ChatGPT, etc.) and online translators, will result in disciplinary action.

New requirement for 2025-26: Students will be required to maintain guided notes for each Edmentum class. Guided notes may be completed digitally and saved within a Google Drive folder or printed, hand-filled, and retained in a binder or folder.

4. **Student Conduct Expectations** – Our belief is that students enrolled in the ALA program have the focus, maturity, desire and self-motivation to complete their high school educational requirements without requiring additional disciplinary rules and regulations; therefore, ALA students are expected to follow and will be held accountable to all rules stated within the [Bowie ISD Student Handbook, the Bowie High School Campus Specific Addendum to the BISD Student Handbook](#), and the [BISD Student Code of Conduct](#).

Should discipline, attendance, quality or quantity of work, attitude or any other problem arise, appropriate disciplinary consequences will be applied to the student by the campus administrator. Students exhibiting problem behavior will be issued a referral form, which must be taken home by the student for parental review. This referral must be returned by the student to whom it was issued with a parent signature acknowledging parental review of the referral. The campus administrator will initiate parent contact with students exhibiting problem behaviors.

In cases where the misconduct is severe or chronic, the administrator will require a parent conference to develop a plan for modification or cessation of the problem behavior.

If disciplinary measures fail to yield improvement, the student will be removed from the ALA program and returned to a regular class schedule at the Bowie High School campus. Students dismissed from ALA are not eligible to return to the ALA program for at least one semester.

In most circumstances, students assigned to DAEP may not transfer directly to the ALA program upon completion of their DAEP assignment. These students generally must return to the high school campus for a minimum of one grading period before being considered for the ALA program.

5. **Personal Communications Device Usage** – If brought to school, any personal communications devices (cell phones, etc.) must be turned in to the ALA monitor for storage at the beginning of the school attendance day. Due to recent legislative changes imposed by Senate Bill 1481, students are prohibited from using personal communications devices during the school day. BISD's ALA prohibits student use of personal communications devices during the school day, in congruence with the 2025-26 BISD Student Code of Conduct.

Students who need to contact parents during the school day may, at the staff's discretion, have access to a school telephone. Parents may reach out to the ALA monitor via phone if they need to contact their student.

6. **Staff-Student Communication** – A staff member will always be present and available to assist students with any questions or concerns they may have about their coursework or the Edmentum platform. Collaborative sessions via videoconferencing, distance learning platforms, or face-to-face assistance with subject-area teachers and tutors may also take place.
7. **Audio-Video Surveillance** – Cameras and audio recording devices are used throughout the ALA campus. These devices are part of campus efforts to provide a more secure environment for the students and staff present on the ALA campus.
8. **Student Progress Monitoring** – Student progress and achievement will be monitored by ALA staff and high school personnel on a weekly basis. Adequate weekly progress is expected of all ALA students.
9. **ALA Attendance Hours** – For the 2025-26 school year, ALA operational hours are from 7:40 a.m. to 3:55 p.m. Students are expected to arrive at 7:40 a.m. All students must leave the campus by 3:55 pm each afternoon.

If attendance recovery is a required component of a student's attendance-related behavior

improvement and truancy prevention plan, the ALA administrator will collaborate with the Bowie High School campus and arrange for the student to attend BHS campus attendance recovery opportunities, which typically occur on a recurring basis, after school. These hours must be completed before the end of each semester. Optionally, and in agreement with Bowie High School, the ALA campus may offer its own independent attendance recovery options for ALA students, on a limited basis.

10. **Early or Special Release Dates** - The ALA follows the Bowie ISD school calendar, including student/staff independent flex days. ALA adheres to all districtwide dismissals or early releases for inclement weather or emergency situations.
11. **Student Searches** – Reasonable suspicion searches of students and their possessions may be conducted by the ALA campus administrator if the administrator suspects the student is in possession of dangerous contraband (e.g. drugs, weapons) or items prohibited by the [BISD Student Code of Conduct](#). The scope of the search will be limited to the safety and security concern under consideration by the campus administrator and may require the use of a metal detector wand.

If the concern initiating a search rises to the level of probable cause and involves dangerous or illegal contraband, BISD Student Resource Officers will be contacted and possibly involved in the search process and response to any laws that may have been violated by the student's possession of items that may infringe upon Texas Penal Code.

Drug dogs may appear on campus at any time to conduct random, free-air searches of the ALA campus. ALA is a drug-free learning zone.

12. **Electronic Cigarette Detectors** – ALA's restrooms are outfitted with air quality sensors that alert administration if electronic cigarette vapors or smoke are detected in the restroom. ALA students who are found to be using, possessing, giving, or selling electronic cigarettes will be disciplined in accordance with the [Bowie ISD Discipline Matrix](#).
13. **Absences and Tardiness** – BISD ALA students are held to the same attendance standards applied to all public school students in the State of Texas; this includes both the 90 percent attendance rule for credit and Texas statutory attendance law, as stated in Texas Education Code sec. 25.085

Chronic absenteeism and tardiness could result in the student losing the privilege of attending the ALA campus. All students must call and speak to either the ALA campus monitor or the DAEP/ALA administrator if they will be absent or tardy.

In the event of an absence, students must provide an excuse note to the ALA monitor within three days of the absence. Failure to provide a note within the three-day window will result in the student's accrual of unexcused absences, which can have consequences with respect to compulsory attendance law. The ALA administrator issues disciplinary referrals for unexcused absences.

ALA can accept a maximum of three parent notes per semester for the purpose of excusing

student absences. Absences beyond this number will require an excuse note from a doctor's office, a walk-in clinic, or the BISD school nurse, who has the authority to send the student home for illness and excuse the absence.

14. **Breakfast and Lunch** –Breakfast is provided and served each morning at 8:00 am. Lunchtime is offered from 12:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. each day. Students may order food from the BHS cafeteria or bring their own food and drink items.

Like Bowie High School, BISD ALA is a closed campus during the lunch period. Students may not leave campus for lunch.

15. **Breaks** – Breaks will be given to students at the discretion of the ALA monitor.

The ALA monitor may adjust or limit student breaks if students engage in conduct during breaks that is abusive, disruptive, or violative of any rules in the ALA Handbook, BISD Student Handbook, or the BISD Student Code of Conduct.

16. **Supplies** – We request the following supplies from students at the beginning of the school year: two boxes of tissues, one container of hand sanitizer, and one package of copy paper.

Additionally, we request that each student bring a standard-sized pack of bottled water each grading period (nine weeks) so that the ALA staff can provide students with high-quality, cold drinking water at all times.

Optional supply item: a 3 to 5 subject three-ring binder for students who choose to maintain paper copies of Edmentum guided.

Continued on following page

17. **Transportation** – Morning and afternoon Bowie ISD school bus transportation is available to all students enrolled in ALA. Students who are of driving age and licensed to drive may drive personal vehicles to ALA. Student drivers should park on the school building side of Lowrie Street, facing southwest.



Students who drive to campus are required to fill out a parking permit application form and will be assigned a parking permit hang tag. This tag is to be displayed at all times, printed side facing the driver's windshield. Parking permits are issued by BHS.

Continued on following page

18. College/Career and Military Readiness Credits – ALA students are expected to complete at least one of the following courses with a score that meets CCMR requirements: SAT, ACT or TSI assessments; ASVAB and enlist into the US Armed Forces; or a program that meets district approved CTE certification credentials.

19. Personal Graduation Plans – Please refer to pages 66-67 in the 2024-25 [Bowie ISD Student Handbook](#) for detailed information about personal graduation plans. As noted in the BISD Student Handbook, “state law generally prohibits a student from graduating solely under the foundation graduation program without an endorsement.” The handbook describes the process for students and their parents to explore the option – if necessary – of graduating under the foundation plan without an endorsement. This option is generally discouraged and would only be considered for students with exceptional circumstances.

20. Final Decisions – This handbook primarily concerns rules and regulations that are specific and unique to Bowie ISD’s Accelerated Learning Academy. The [Bowie ISD Student Handbook](#), [Bowie High School Campus Specific Addendum to the Bowie ISD Student Handbook](#), and the [Bowie High School Student Code of Conduct](#) will be used to address any other areas not specifically mentioned within this document. All other decisions regarding rules and regulations at the ALA campus will be made by the ALA administrator in conjunction with the district superintendent.

This handbook is subject to revision as needed. Significant revisions will be shared with BISD administration and all ALA stakeholders.

Accelerated Learning Academy Dress and Grooming Policy

Students will follow the Bowie High School dress code while attending ALA. Please consult the [Bowie High School Campus Specific Addendum](#) to the 2024-25 Bowie ISD Student Handbook for further information concerning student dress and grooming expectations.

Bowie ISD

Accelerated Learning Academy



Rules and Guidelines Acknowledgement

I have read the above ALA Rules and Guidelines and understand that the breaking of these rules could result in being reassigned to the regular high school campus.

Student

Date

Parent/Guardian

Date

Receipt of Handbook Acknowledgement

I, _____ the parent/guardian of _____ acknowledge receipt of a copy of the Bowie High School Parent/Student ALA Handbook.

Parent/Guardian

Date

ALA Student Information Sheet

Student Name _____

Student Address _____

Student Home Phone Number _____

Mother/Father Name _____ / _____

Mother/Father Cell Phone _____ / _____

Mother/Father Work Phone _____ / _____

Emergency Contact:

Name/Relationship _____

Phone _____

Is the student currently taking any medications? Yes No

If yes, what medications and how often _____

Current academic status: General Education Special Education 504 Accommodations ESL

(circle all that apply)

ALA Student Parking Permit Application

Student Name _____

Student Driver License Number _____

Vehicle Make (e.g. Ford, Chevy, Honda, etc.) _____

Vehicle Model (e.g. Mustang, Silverado, Accord etc.) _____

Primary Vehicle Color _____

Secondary Vehicle Color _____

License Plate Number _____

THIS SECTION TO BE COMPLETED BY ALA STAFF

Parking Permit Hang Tag Number _____

Date Issued to Student _____