

South Central Calhoun Alternative Classroom/Program Handbook

The mission of the South Central Calhoun Alternative Program is to provide quality education programs in a caring and supportive environment so that all students can take ownership of and responsibility for earning their high school diploma.

Philosophy:

- ensure that our students take responsibility for their education.
- place an emphasis on and promote behaviors that lead to success in the workplace, home, and society.
- place high expectations on students concerning their attendance, productivity, and the quality of their school work.
- maintain consistent yet flexible treatment of all students.
- provide quality instruction.
- maintain a curriculum that is both stimulating and useful.
- provide a high quality facility with current technology.

Welcome to the Alternative Classroom Learning Program

Our program is designed to provide students with a flexible and personalized learning experience, located within the high school building. This handbook outlines the key aspects of our alternative classroom learning environment, which utilizes the Edgenuity online platform. This way of learning is not the easy way out, as the online learning can be more rigorous and some students do not learn best this way. Please read through this handbook to understand the expectations, guidelines, and resources available to you.

Goals and Objectives

Our goal is to provide an alternative learning option for students who have not been successful in the traditional high school setting or whose personal needs would be easier served in a smaller environment. We aim to support students in successfully completing their courses, achieving academic progress, and ultimately earning their high school credits. The school's focus is on meeting the personal, social-emotional, behavioral, and educational needs of the individual with the goal of high school graduation and post-secondary success.

Remember that equality is not the same as being fair in educational circumstances. School administrators will determine what is best for the student in each unique situation.

Program Overview

Location: High School Building

Platform: Edgenuity Online Learning

Staff: Adult staff member present at all times

Program Structure

- **Attendance:** Students must attend in person in the assigned classroom. **We are not an accredited online school to offer off campus online learning.
- **Learning Mode:** Students will work on courses via the Imagine Learning (Edgenuity) platform and the work will be online only.
- **Staff Role:** An adult staff member will be available for support, but not as a content expert in all areas.
- **Problem Solving:** Students are expected to use problem-solving skills and persistence (grit) to progress through their courses.

Admission

1. Grades 9-12

- Students should be meet at least two of the following requirements:
 - Standardized test scores two years below grade level in either math or reading

- Low grades or behind in credits towards graduation
- High rate of absenteeism, truancy or tardiness
- Lack of identification with school or little or no extracurricular involvement
- Diagnosed medical reason or doctor referral
- Behavioral reason
- Safety reasons
- Other: determined by a school administrator in conjunction with the school counselor, teachers, parents, or students

2. Meeting

- A meeting with the alternative classroom teacher, administrator, counselor, student and parent is needed to discuss if the student qualifies for the alternative program and the expectations
- Discussion on the goals for graduation to determine if we are reaching for a Traditional Diploma or Core Diploma
- Reasons for dismissal from the program:

Issues with attendance, behavior or lack of progress on the courses.

Expectations and Requirements

3. Course Completion:

- Students must complete 100% of their assigned courses by the end of the semester.
- A minimum passing score of 60% is required to earn course credit.

4. Attendance:

- Regular attendance is crucial to stay on pace with course completion.
- Adherence to the school's attendance policy is mandatory.
- Persistent attendance issues may result in the student being dropped from the course to free up the license for another student.

5. Classroom Policies:

- The same rules and policies that apply to the rest of the school building are enforced in this classroom.
 - Students are expected to follow all school policies and the student handbook.
6. **Course Availability:**
- Some required courses may not be available through Edgenuity.
 - Availability of courses is subject to the school administration's decisions.
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Course Logistics

- **Licenses:** The goal is to have no more than 8 students in the classroom at one time due to limited licenses.
 - **Support:** Staff will provide weekly progress reports to parents and students to maintain open communication.
 - **Testing:**
 - Tests and quizzes must be taken in person at school.
 - The adult staff member will unlock tests and quizzes.
 - Other assignments can be completed outside of school hours if needed.
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Special Circumstances

- **Credit Recovery:** Students may take courses to recover failed credits, subject to school approval.
 - **Flexible Scheduling:**
 - Students may spend varying amounts of time in the alternative classroom, from a few periods a day to the entire school day.
 - This depends on the individual student's situation and needs.
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Policies

- All other policies will fall in line with school policies.
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Contact Information

For any questions or additional support, please contact the school administration or the adult staff member assigned to the alternative classroom.

By signing below, you acknowledge that you have read and understood the expectations and guidelines of the Alternative Classroom Learning Program.

Student Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Thank you for being a part of our alternative learning community. We look forward to supporting your educational journey.