



Executive Summary of Policy Themes & Issues Affecting Alternatives for High School	
7 Policy Conditions for Large Scale Success	What They Mean
1. Increased College Access	AHSI program models enable students to complete high school by earning a regular diploma or an equivalent credential, and they prepare young people to pursue postsecondary education.
2. Need-based, Adequacy Approach to Funding	Adequate funding at levels <u>above</u> per pupil funding allotments for traditional high school programs is essential if alternatives for high school are to reach sustainable nationwide scale.
3. Rigorous, Reasonable Academic Standards and Assessments	Alternatives for high school are committed to ensuring that students meet or exceed academic standards and competencies for high school completion and readiness for entry into postsecondary education. AHSI models seek to measure student learning along a continuum that includes state tests and requirements as well as authentic assessments of performance through tasks, projects, and portfolios.
4. Strong Accountability	Alternatives for high school are dedicated to being held accountable for students' academic achievement. Students who have not fulfilled their academic potential in traditional K-12 settings often require additional supports. An alternative model's accountability must be aligned with access to the necessary resources and flexibility for innovation in programming that will enable students to succeed.
5. Expanded Options for Parents and Students	Parents and students would benefit from a wider range of alternatives for high school, preferably with the ability to choose a learning environment likely to be effective at enabling a young person to achieve success.
6. Open Sector, Readiness to Open Alternative High Schools	Launching and expanding alternatives for high school requires a healthy "open sector" in education that is receptive to education programs that expand, enhance, and recalibrate the premises and structure of the existing public school system.
7. Coordination with City and Other Public Agencies and Community Organizations	Alternatives for high school recognize the need to offer students supports and services that are beyond the purview of the school system to provide. To do this, many alternatives for high school coordinate with other public agencies and with community organizations to create options for students to tap into a range of appropriate resources.