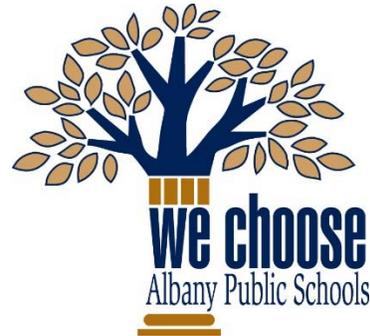


Redesigning alternative education

The City School District of Albany's proposed 2017-18 budget supports changes to programs that provide specialized help to students with academic, behavioral or other issues affecting their ability to succeed in school.



The budget plan also provides equitable staffing at the district's Alternative Learning Center, which will relocate to a new home next school year at 395 Elk St.

Alternative education in most cases consists of short-term programs customized to help middle- and high-school students deal with issues they face, ranging widely from failing a grade to missing school because of pregnancy to violating the district's Code of Conduct.

The goal of alternative education is to provide students with the support they need to stay on track to graduation and transition successfully back to their middle or high school.

The district's alternative-education programs serve students in grades 7-12. In addition to the move to its new location for 2017-18, the ALC also will undergo program changes to better meet students' academic and social-emotional needs.

Plans call for creating three new middle-school programs: therapeutic, academic and behavioral. Each will be staffed to meet the specific needs of students.

Also, four new programs will serve high-school students:

- Accelerated recovery (a modified version of the current CHOICE program) for students who repeat ninth grade;
- A short-term program for Code of Conduct violators;
- A short-term program for students transitioning from court and other non-district programs; and
- A longer-term program for students who need smaller learning environments.

Existing staff will accommodate some of the changes. The budget plan would support the following new staff to bolster the redesign and provide students at the ALC with equitable course options:

- An APEX/Online Success teacher;
- An art teacher;
- A family and consumer sciences teacher;
- A music teacher;
- A technology teacher; and
- A school social worker.