



# Alternatives in Action High School

PREPARING YOUTH FOR COLLEGE, CAREER AND COMMUNITY

## **Educational Philosophy**

At Alternatives in Action High School we believe that learning best occurs when:

- Learning is made relevant to young people's lives through real and meaningful experience
- Learning is grounded in caring relationships
- Youth have influence over their school and education
- Learning emphasizes depth of thinking over breadth of coverage
- Learning is holistic, encompassing intellectual, emotional, civic, and social development

At Alternatives in Action High School, we employ an educational practice we call "Enterprise Learning". Enterprise Learning is a developmental approach that integrates youth development practices, constructivism, and in-depth college preparatory learning. Enterprise Learning emphasizes project creation and performance as a tool to enhance personal efficacy, reading, writing, public speaking, and the ability to take social action. Curricula that encompass Enterprise Learning include the following:

- Opportunities for youth choice/personalization
- Attention to group process and collaborative learning (group forming, deconstruction, reconstruction, high performance, reflection)
- Identified public performances
- Authentic assessments of youth learning including a clear process for developing learning plans and Presentations of Learning (POL)
- Youth ownership and leadership at multiple levels, including social action projects that address issues of importance to the external community
- Rigorous intellectual development that focuses on habits of mind as opposed to merely information retention
- Multiple age and ability level groupings that provide opportunities for cascading leadership and peer coaching

Our intention is that each of our graduates know what they think, know what they feel, know what they believe, and take meaningful action in the world.