

High School Alternative Program (HSAP)



Creating New Opportunities *The Power of Yet*

Parent and Student Program Guide
2024-2025

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MISSION

The Alternative Programs of The School District of Greenville County will provide short-term educational settings, which offer instructional programs to address the behavioral, academic, and social needs of our students.

DISCLAIMER

Neither this handbook nor any part of it should be construed as a contract itself. This handbook is not intended to be comprehensive and is advisory, serving only to guide the student and parent. The program reserves the right to make changes or exceptions to statements in this handbook. Final interpretation of all program rules is left up to the Administration.

BELIEFS

1. All students are capable of learning.
2. All students are individuals with unique needs.
3. Students have a desire to be successful.
4. Students deserve respect, acceptance and encouragement.
5. Students should be provided with a safe environment for learning.
6. Students need a curriculum that provides opportunities for academic and social development.
7. Education is the responsibility of the home, school, student, and community.

OBJECTIVES/GOALS

1. Assist students in developing skills necessary to be successful in a regular school setting.
2. Assist students in developing self-discipline & a sense of personal responsibility for their actions.
3. Assist students in improving academic skills.
4. Provide students with a safe and nurturing environment for learning.
5. Provide differentiated instruction with a standards-based curriculum that meets student's needs.
6. Provide opportunities for students to develop a more positive self-concept.
7. Assist students in identifying barriers that inhibit their educational and social development.
8. Prepare students for life after high school.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The High School Alternative Program was established in 1996. The goal of the program is to provide short-term intervention in a structured learning environment for at-risk students experiencing difficulty in the traditional academic setting. Students attending the High School Alternative Program will be given the opportunity to continue their education in an environment designed to address their academic, social, and behavioral needs. The curricular offerings utilize an online platform in a blended learning environment.

Students are referred to the program by a School District Hearing Officer. Once completing the program, the student will be able to return to his/her home school on a probationary status. Completion of the program is based solely on student performance. The ultimate goal of the High School Alternative Program is to help students reintegrate successfully into the traditional school setting or continue their education in a setting of their choice, including Adult Education.

The High School Alternative Program offers courses via Edgenuity, Virtual SC, and google classroom computer-based instruction. Academic support will be provided by instructional facilitators and certified content teachers. Students attend school from 8:30 A.M. – 3:00 P.M. and work in multi-age/multi-grade level classes. Each student works on an educational plan tailored to meet his/her academic needs. Smaller class size helps to create an intimate climate and provide increased opportunities for attention to social and behavioral needs. The staff at the High School Alternative Program is trained to function as a team and to be consistent in their expectations of students who attend the program.

The High School Alternative Program promotes acceptance of responsibility for one's own actions and the development of self-discipline. The on-site counseling staff will offer opportunities for individual and group counseling and opportunities to improve the skills necessary for success in life. Students are returned to the traditional academic setting once they have successfully

completed their prescribed program.

PROGRAM STAFF

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SCHOOL/OFFICE HOURS

The instructional day for students begins at 8:30 A.M. and ends at 3:00 P.M. STUDENTS MUST BE IN THE BUILDING PRIOR TO 8:30. (Oversleeping is not an excused tardy.) Someone will be available in the office to assist parents and/or students between the hours of 8:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M. If special assistance is needed, please schedule a conference to meet with the appropriate personnel. Students may be dropped off as early as 7:45 AM; this is when the doors will be opened. (Doors are not opened prior to 7:45 AM) Breakfast and Lunch are provided to all students at no charge. If students wish to eat breakfast they should arrive prior to 8:15 am. Students will eat lunch with the class they are assigned. Students arriving after arrival times, parents are required to escort students into the building to sign their students into school late. Students should be picked up no later than 3:30 PM. If a student is not picked up by 3:30pm consistently, a parent conference will be required in

an effort to correct this issue. Parents must contact the Main Office and submit written permission should their child request to ride with someone other than the designee assigned by the parent during the enrollment procedure. All students must use the designated area for drop off and pick-up.

Class Schedule

Home Room	8:30AM -8:55 AM	Daily Goals/ Life Skills
1st Period	9:00-9:45	class
2nd Period	9:50-10:35	class
3rd Period	10:40-11:25	Ripple Effects- Life Skills/ Lunch
4th Period		class
5th Period	11:30-12:15	class
6th Period	12:20-1:05	class
7th Period	1:10-1:55	class
8th Period	2:00- 2:45	class
	2:45- 3:00	Daily goals Checklist/Review

Testing

END-OF-COURSE EXAMINATION PROGRAM (EOCEP)

End of course exams are final exams for block/semester courses. These exams are administered in U.S. History; Algebra 1; Algebra 1, Part B; English 2; and Biology 1. EOCs count as twenty percent (20%) of the final average

ELEVENTH GRADE STATE TESTING

All students entering the eleventh grade for the first time in the school year 2024-25 and subsequent years must be administered a WIN assessment.

CURRICULUM/GRADING SYSTEM

The High School Alternative Program provides computer-based instruction provided by Edgenuity, Virtual SC, and Google classroom. These platforms offer a standards-based digital curriculum in math, science, english, social studies, and electives. Mastery for each course is 60%.

CURRICULUM REQUIREMENTS FOR A SC HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA

For a public school student to receive a South Carolina High School Diploma, the student complete a minimum of twenty-four units of credit as outlined below:

Subjects Units Required	
English/language arts	4
Mathematics	4

Science	3
U.S. History of Constitution	1
Economics	0.5
U.S. Government	0.5
Other social studies	1
Physical education or ROTC	1
Computer science (including keyboard)	1
Foreign language or Career and Technology Education	1
<i>Personal Finance</i>	0.5
<i>Electives *</i>	6.5
*starting with 23/24 Freshman- students not falling in this category will be required to take 7.0 elective courses	
Total	24

CHROMEBOOK

Each school year every person who uses a Greenville County School District Chromebook must review the Acceptable Use Rule (Board Rule EFE). This rule is available on the GCS website at www.greenville.k12.sc.us/gcsd/depts/ets/policy/aup.asp

PERSONAL BELONGINGS

Backpacks, bookbags, purses or any type of bag are not allowed within the school. Any items of value should be left at home. Items brought that are not permitted will be held and a scheduled parent conference will be required for return. Furthermore, students are encouraged not to bring excessive amounts of money to school. The program and the School District of Greenville County are not responsible for theft or loss of personal belongings. Students may not have food or drink during regular class periods. **Each student will need a pair of wired headphones or wired earbuds.** One tube of chapstick or lipbalm will be permitted. Any item brought that are not on the approved list will be confiscated. Each occurrence will follow the return policy of electronic devices. Feminine products are provided and not permitted to be brought to HSAP. 1st - parent conference return 2nd- discipline 3rd until exit of program.

SEARCHES, STUDENT INTERROGATIONS, AND ARRESTS

(Summary of Policy JCAB)

The Board by this policy recognizes that both State law and the Fourth Amendment to the United States Constitution protect citizens, including students, from unreasonable searches and seizures. The Board accordingly directs all District personnel to conduct searches and seizures on District property or during District-sponsored events in accordance with applicable federal and State law. The Board's express intention for this policy is to enhance security in the schools, prevent students and other persons on school grounds from violating Board policies, school rules, and State and federal laws, and ensure that legitimate privacy interests and expectations are respected consistent with the need of the District to maintain a safe environment conducive to education.

As authorized by state law, District and school administrators and officials may conduct reasonable searches on District property of lockers, desks, vehicles, and personal belongings such as purses, book

bags, wallets, and satchels, with or without probable cause, subject to the limitations and requirements of this policy.

Electronic Devices

For purpose of this policy, electronic devices are defined as telecommunications devices, including cell phones, smart watches, bluetooth devices such as wireless headphones, speakers that emit an audible signal, vibrate, display a message or otherwise summon or deliver a communication to the possessor. *No bluetooth compatible wired or wireless headphones.* **While enrolled in the High School Alternative Program (HSAP), no student may have in their possession, a cell phone, or any other electronic or electronic device. Violations will result in the device being confiscated by faculty or staff.** HSAP nor the district will be liable for any damage and/or loss to such items brought onto GCS property.

The principal or his/her designee may authorize a student to otherwise possess an electronic device if the student is an active member of an emergency service organization, and needs the electronic device for a legitimate reason, as determined by the principal. In such cases, the student must have prior written consent from the principal or his/her designee.

A person, who finds a student in possession or use of an electronic device in violation of this policy, must report the student to the school principal. **The principal or his/her designee must confiscate the device.** The device will be returned to the student's parent/legal guardian according to the terms set forth below. Confiscated cell phones must be returned to a parent/legal guardian prior to the end of the school year. A student who violates this policy regarding the use and possession of electronic devices is subject to discipline as follows:

First offense – The electronic device or mobile telephone will be confiscated. The electronic device or mobile telephone will be held until a conference is conducted with the parent/legal guardian. The parent/legal guardian must sign an agreement acknowledging their understanding of Board Policy JDCA and the penalties for subsequent violations. The student will receive a disciplinary warning.

Second offense – The electronic device or mobile telephone will be confiscated. The electronic device or mobile telephone will be held until a conference is conducted with the parent/legal guardian. The student will receive a disciplinary infraction of a 2-day suspension and a parent/guardian conference will be held and the student will be placed on HSAP probation.

Third and subsequent offenses – Confiscation of the electronic device or mobile telephone and after a conference with the parent/legal guardian, the electronic device or mobile telephone will be returned to the parent/legal guardian when the student exits the program. The student will receive a disciplinary infraction.

TOBACCO /VAPE PRODUCTS

Students are not permitted to use or possess any tobacco products while in school buildings, on school grounds, on school buses, or at any time that a student is under the direct administrative jurisdiction of the school or school officials. This includes vape/e-cigarettes, matches, and lighters. Disciplinary actions will be handled in accordance with the Behavior Code.

LIFE SKILLS/RIPPLE EFFECTS

HSAP not only focuses on the academic success of students but also on their social development. All students attending HSAP will receive Life Skills instruction. The students will be placed on a tier and complete intervention assignments. Some of the subjects covered in Life Skills are communication, anger management, conflict resolution, decision-making, and alcohol & drug abuse. This self guided learning and reflection is a requirement for exiting the program through transition. There is no grade or academic credit given for Life Skills Tier Assignments or Ripple Effects; however, completing one ripple effect and one reflection per day you are in our program is a requirement for transition. Life Skills will be conducted by the Facilitators and students will also have access to Life Skills activities in our Ripple Effects Program.

PARENT/TEACHER COMMUNICATION

Parents should expect contact from their student's facilitator on a weekly basis to update them on their student's progress. We hope that parents will take advantage of the Alternative Program webpage and the Parent Backpack. All parents are encouraged to contact the school to set up a conference with a student's facilitator (s) by calling 355-5182. Teachers & Facilitators may also request conferences if needed. Parents are encouraged to stay in touch with facilitators and teachers by attending scheduled parenting meetings, calling if they have a concern.

PARENT INVOLVEMENT

Periodically throughout the school year, we will sponsor Parent Programs. Parents are urged to attend and talk with teachers and fellowship with other parents, and interact with program staff who will discuss various subjects of interest to the parents of the students.

VISITORS

Visitors are not allowed on campus unless permission has been granted from the office. Students are not to invite relatives or friends to school for class visits. Expelled or suspended students are not allowed on school grounds. All visitors must check in the main office.

ADDRESS/PHONE CHANGES

Any change of address or phone number during the year should be reported to the office.

MEDICATION

All medications shall be maintained in the main office. Proper forms from parents and physicians must be completed and on file. We cannot dispense any medication without parental and physician consent.

HSAP TRUST CONTRACT

In an effort to remind students of their focus on completing the appropriate skills to transition out of HSAP. If a student is in jeopardy of not progressing towards their academic and behavioral goals due to disciplinary infractions the student will be placed in violation of our trust contract. We will meet with parents, students, and staff to redirect the student toward success.

EXPECTATIONS FOR STUDENTS/EXIT REQUIREMENTS

Program exit requirements will be explained to parents and students during the enrollment conference. We do require that students demonstrate over a substantial period of time the ability to function academically and socially in the regular school environment. Our staff will contact parents weekly to share student progress and to answer any questions. While in the Alternative setting students are expected to complete their assignments at a rigorous level. Students will be expected to complete their assigned tier intervention projects. Sleeping in class will not be tolerated. Students will be expected to work during class throughout the day.

Students that cannot stay awake will be here for a longer period of time due to the fact that they are choosing not to work during the school day.

TRANSPORTATION/STUDENT PARKING

All students will be responsible for arranging their own transportation to and from school. Designated areas are provided for student parking. Students should park their cars in their assigned areas. Students should enter the building immediately. Loitering in the parking lot is prohibited. Students must remain in the assigned drop-off/pick-up waiting area. The school and the School District of Greenville County are not responsible for thefts or other vandalism to student cars or property. Students are encouraged not to leave valuables in their cars. All students should enter and exit the campus at the designated area. Students are to immediately report to the Check-In area upon arrival.

Parent/Guardian must call the Main Office and submit written permission if they request their child to ride with anyone other than the person designated at the intake conference. There are forms to be completed if students will be walking, being a co-rider in a carpool, or a city-bus rider. Students must enter and exit the building as soon as they arrive or depart. Loitering will not be permitted.

BREAKFAST/LUNCH PROGRAM

Breakfast are provided to all students at no cost. Lunch will be provided according to your lunch account from your home school at the Bonds location. Candy and Gum are considered food and are not permitted. Students are only allowed to purchase from vending machines during breakfast and lunch. Students arriving after 9:00 am have missed the opportunity for vending during breakfast hours. **No outside food is permitted.** Drinks that are **sealed** at check-in **will be** permitted. Glass bottles will not be permitted. Students are permitted to bring their own empty or sealed water bottles. Any food or unauthorized drink item that is brought in will be disposed of upon entry.

HALL MOVEMENT

Students should not be in the halls at any time without adult supervision. Any time a student needs to transition in the building, there must be prior notification to the room or office they are transitioning to and adults must be in the hallway or at their doors ensuring that the appropriate transition occurs. Students should walk on the right side of the hallway.

EARLY DISMISSALS

When a student needs to leave school early, he or she must bring a note stating the reason for the early dismissal and the phone number where the parent(s) or guardian(s) may be reached. Students will not be dismissed by a telephone call. Parents must enter the school to sign out the student when the student is leaving school early.

Although parent notes will be honored, early dismissal will be classified as excused or unexcused.

TARDINESS TO SCHOOL

Students are expected to arrive at school and be in their classroom by 8:30 A.M. Please plan for traffic delays and leave a little early. Students will receive two free tardies of 15 minutes or less per semester. Thereafter, a parent conference will be required in an effort to correct this issue. Excessive tardies will require an attendance intervention to implement an improvement plan and inform parents/students of possible consequences for continued truancy.

ATTENDANCE REGULATIONS

Students who do not attend class will be considered skipping class and will receive disciplinary action which could extend your time at HSAP. School is compulsory between the ages of six and seventeen, by state statute. The maximum age for public school attendance is 21. However, a student who reaches his twenty-first birthday while enrolled as a high school senior and is a candidate for graduation may remain to complete that school year.

Absences in High School are accrued per course. Note: Classes missed during early dismissals count toward the maximum number of allowable absences in any one class.

Procedures for Makeup Work

1. Provision for make-up of school work missed during excused absences shall be worked out with the teacher(s) concerned at the earliest time possible but should not exceed five (5) school days after the student returns to school.
2. Make up of school work missed during unexcused absences may be approved only with permission of the principal after consultation with the teacher(s) concerned.

Intervention

1. Facilitators shall make daily contact (phone, letter, or e-mails) with the parent(s)/guardian(s) of students who are absent.
2. After a student has accumulated three (3) consecutive or a total of five (5) unexcused absences, the attendance clerk will submit an attendance printout and dates of contact to the intervention team coordinator. The intervention team shall:

- a. Hold a conference with the student and the parent(s) or guardian(s).
 - b. Identify reasons for the student's unlawful absences.
 - c. Develop a plan in conjunction with the student and the parent(s)/guardian(s) to improve attendance.
 - d. Apprise the parent(s)/guardian(s) of the South Carolina Compulsory Attendance Law.
 - e. Document the conference by having all appropriate conferees sign and date a Student Attendance Intervention Plan Form in the spaces provided.
3. Upon the seventh consecutive or eighth accumulated unexcused absence, the attendance clerk or the intervention team coordinator shall send an Attendance Referral to an attendance supervisor with the following information:
- a. List of courses and grades currently enrolled in.
 - b. A summarized copy of the student's attendance is signed and dated by the Principal.
 - c. Written excuses for absences.
 - d. Copy of current discipline record.
 - e. A completed Student Attendance Intervention Plan Form.
4. Upon receipt of a referral, the attendance supervisor shall immediately intervene to improve the student's attendance. Intervention shall include but not to be limited to:
- a. Convene a conference with the parent(s)/guardian(s) and the student.
 - b. Review the plan for improving attendance developed by the parent(s)/guardian(s), student, and intervention team, and make adjustments as necessary.
 - c. Follow-up on recommendations made by the intervention team.
 - d. Review with the parent(s)/guardian(s) the South Carolina Compulsory School Attendance Law and give the parent(s)/guardian(s) a copy of the law.
 - e. Inform the parent(s)/guardian(s) and student that any additional unexcused absence will result in referral to the appropriate agency.
 - f. Document the conference by having the parent(s)/guardian(s) and student sign and date the Student Attendance Intervention Plan Form. Include your written findings on recommendations made by the intervention team.
5. Continuing contact, as needed, will be maintained between the referring school and the attendance supervisor.

Please note that the Dress Code is extremely important because it deals with Compliance and Decision making which are key elements in helping staff determine when a student is ready to transition back to a regular school setting.

In complying with the above, the following guidelines are additions to the Alternative Program including but are not limited to:

1. Students will wear **collared shirts** all students must fasten all buttons except at the neck.
 - a. Shirts must cover the stomach and back.
 - b. Jerseys of any type are not permitted
 - c. **No Hoodie is allowed in the program.**
 - d. Crew neck or V-neck sweatshirts can be worn over a collared shirt.
 - e. Jackets without hoods may be kept on.
2. Shirts must be tucked in students are required to wear belts and they must be buckled.
 - a. Any pants that are sagging or dragging will be cinched up so as not to reveal undergarments
3. Students must wear dress pants **with belt loops** (i.e. khaki pants, black pants, etc)
 - a. No blue jeans or camo pants may be worn.
 - b. Jeans or Pants that have a shredded look or holes exposing skin are not permitted.
 - c. Leggings or Jeggings are not considered pants and should not be worn as such.
 - d. No shorts may be worn
4. Students are not permitted to wear multiple layers of clothing (i.e. gym shorts under pants, socks, etc)
5. All shoes must have a permanent heel strap
 - a. Crocs, Slides, flip-flops, shower, or bedroom shoes are prohibited.
6. Accessories such as jewelry, chains, grilles, bracelets, and gloves are prohibited and should not be worn.
7. Piercings are allowed as long as they do not become a distraction in class.
8. No headbands or other hair accessories such as hats, head coverings, bonnets, brushes, picks, combs, scrunchies, sponges, etc are not allowed.
 - a. **1** Ponytail twist is permitted to pull your hair up.
9. No aerosol cans of any type are allowed.
10. Blankets are not permitted
11. Students are only permitted to bring a small amount of \$/card for vending, 1 chapstick (stick) and non blue tooth compatible wired headphones.

The administration will make the final judgment on the appropriateness of clothing and/or appearance and reserves the right to prohibit students from wearing any articles of clothing or other items that lead to or may foreseeably result in the disruption of or interference with the school environment.

In the event the administration determines a student's dress is inappropriate for school in accordance with this policy, the administration either will require the student to change or will inform the student not to wear the garment to school again. Repeated violations of the dress code will be treated as disruptive behavior in violation of the District's Behavior Code

STUDENTS WHO DO NOT MEET THE DRESS CODE, PROLONG THEIR TIME AT HSAP