Introduction

Digital curriculum enables innovative ways to personalize instruction, motivate, and engage students. In many cases, students experience academic success in rigorous courses for the first time. Alternative education programs support students who:

- Are at risk of dropping out of school or have already done so
- Are unable to attend school due to medical homebound or long-term suspension status
- Desire a non-traditional academic setting
- Are capable of accelerating course completion for early graduation

Program Factors

The flexibility of Apex Learning digital curriculum allows for a wide range of implementations. Consider student needs and available resources when designing your program.

Location: Where will teachers & students work?

- On-site (blended)
- Combination of on-site and off-site (enriched virtual)
- Off-site (virtual)
- Student Success Center (Physical location with devices & internet access)

Scheduling: When will students work?

- How many and which days per week?
- During what times?

Credit Type: What type of courses will be offered?

- General Studies
- Credit Recovery
- Advanced Placement
- Remediation (credit or non-credit)

Staff: Who will provide instruction & intervention?

- District teachers: Local math, English, science, social studies, and world language teachers.
- Apex Learning teachers: ALVS1 - quality instruction at a distance.
- Lab managers and district teachers: Lab managers provide supervision, motivation, and proctoring. Teachers provide instruction, feedback, grading, and tutoring.

Student Support: What type of resources & support will students need?

- Coaching and counseling
- Instruction and tutoring
- Monitoring and outreach

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1 [https://www.apexlearningvs.com/](https://www.apexlearningvs.com/)
Program Models

Alternative education programs can address a wide variety of student needs. The following examples outline three models supported by a digital curriculum.

Virtual

Increase access to high-quality courses. Single course enrollment benefits students with schedule conflicts, and those completing additional courses for early graduation. Full-time enrollment benefits students who cannot physically attend school, or who prefer a non-traditional setting.

Alternative Day / Evening School

Serve students who need alternative scheduling options. This blended model may be designed using an abbreviated schedule in a day or evening program. Over-age and under-credited students, teen parents, and students balancing the need to work with educational goals benefit from this model.

Homebound Instruction

Revitalize instruction for those who are physically unable to attend school. Assign lessons and provide feedback in a timely manner. Students receive support from a mentor who visits the home to monitor assessments and provide guidance. Read more about Homebound and Hospital programs.

Best Practices: Planning

1. Define Staff Roles and Responsibilities

Staff your program with full- or part-time teachers with appropriate certifications.

- Administrator/site coordinator: Oversees the program and provides direction and support to staff.
- Guidance counselor: Provides individual graduation planning, progress monitoring, and outreach.
- Teachers: Provide instruction and feedback.
- Support staff: Work under the direction of the administrator to perform operational tasks.
- Read Staff Roles and Responsibilities

2. Provide Scheduling Options

Most non-traditional students benefit from scheduling choice. Students can work at their own pace from any computer with Internet access, allowing course work beyond scheduled school time.

3. Require On-Site Attendance

Determine the days and hours students are required to attend onsite to have access to teachers for progress checks, instruction, and assessment proctoring. Offer multiple sessions to meet demand.

Example 1: Students choose between day and evening — Onsite sessions are offered Monday/Wednesday/Friday from 12-3pm and 5-8pm.

Example 2: Students choose between Monday/Wednesday and Tuesday/Thursday from 4-8pm In this program, students may attend both sessions.