

Alternative Ed is the Way to Go

Today, so many students are dropping out of high school for copious reasons. It's a given that most teens won't like going somewhere that they are forced to go, but there are plenty of other reasons they hate school. Traditional public high schools are stereotypically a place where everyone needs to fit in with one another, where you are supposed to do excellent according to generalized standards. What happened to being unique individuals? A lot of high school kids are still trying to figure out who they are, and the pressures of school greatly affect that. I think that independent study school is the best option for students struggling in public high school.

Independent study allows students to do their work at their own pace. Instead of being forced to move on or spend more time on certain materials as a class, you finish certain assignments at your own level. Some concepts might be easy for you to understand that the other 30 kids in your class struggle comprehending. Moving at someone else's pace, whether it's faster or slower, can be frustrating, and make you want to give up. Students can also have a say in their types of assignments. For instance, you might like writing more than reading, so you can ask if you can write essays rather than read a book. If students are actually interested in what they are learning about, they will be more eager to learn. Going to school won't feel like such a burden if you are enjoying it.

Independent study provides spare time, which can be occupied with a job or other productive hobbies. The majority of people figure that independent study students have more time to sit around and be lazy, or go out and be getting into trouble. High school is supposed to be preparing you for life after it, which includes working and time management. But if you spend all of your time sitting in a classroom, how are you supposed to get a taste of the outside world? Since you fit school into your own schedule, you have the time to maintain a job. Without the demanding schedule of traditional

public schools, you have time to gain work experience. Having a job and making time for yourself is a good way to practice self-discipline and responsibility.

Independent study students have the opportunity to graduate early. In public schools, you are expected to be at the same pace as the rest of your grade, no higher, no lower. If a student is more determined and able to get work done faster, why shouldn't they be able to? Traditional public schools give no chances for students to move ahead. If they aren't challenged enough, they are likely to give up. If a student is not learning as fast the rest of their peers, they may want to give up as well. With independent study, your teachers spend time focusing on you, and what you need to work at. A failing student at a public school might feel like they actually have a chance at graduating at an independent study school.

Alternative education schools have helped plenty of struggling students graduate. Independent study has given me the time to live my own life, and make something out of it. Now, I have plenty of work experience, money, and I have time to pursue my music career. A lot of independent students graduate early, rather than on time. It's ironic that the students that spend less time in school tend to finish faster.