

AFTERSCHOOL IN HAMPTON ROADS



FEATURING ALTERNATIVES INC

Basics Like Food and Staff Hard to Secure

Further investments are needed to help programs like Alternatives make a bigger impact on their local communities. Students are not able to learn if the basic necessities like food are not met. Alternatives is sometimes able to serve hot meals, but mostly current restrictions on meeting specific eligibility requirements or purchasing food are a barrier. Furthermore, like most programs across the country the teacher storage impacts the ability to find tutors to support students struggling with English and Math.

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Approximately 183 Youth Served



Fostering Future Leaders using SEL Skills

Positive social-emotional (SEL) skills are foundational to truly thriving in life. Alternatives 21st Century Academy intentionally centers its program around mindful practices encouraging youth to employ self-regulation, compassion, and kindness. Believing in the strengths and abilities of all students, Alternatives seeks to provide the proper support, resources, and opportunities for them to achieve their inherent potential. For example, at the beginning of each program day, staff and students recap program norms to reinforce expectations and mentally reframe after the end of the school day. Alternatives takes a holistic approach to learning using physical movement and fun activities to achieve learning objectives.

Since 1992 Alternatives has provided students with leadership roles to provide a sense of belonging and purpose. In fact, in 2018 former Alternatives participant Ragen Johnson returned to the organization as Executive Director. "I've been involved in Alternatives programs since I was a kid in elementary school, so I know firsthand the impact the agency has on the lives of young people. Alternatives helps develop many skills such as leadership, creativity, and opportunities to serve others." Johnson emphasized.