

Student Teaching Program in Alief Independent School District in Houston, TX

1. Where is Alief?

Alief ISD was founded in 1917 and is located in southwest Houston, an urban community with thriving businesses, active churches, and a variety of recreational facilities. The district encompasses 36.6 square miles.

Alief is the most ethnically diverse of school districts of comparable size in Texas. Virtually every culture of the modern world is represented in its 42,000 student enrollment; more than 80 languages and dialects are spoken. Guest speakers, culture clubs, and ethnic fairs help promote multicultural appreciation.

Alief ISD's facilities, including 45 campuses, are a focal point of the community and represent a major property investment by its taxpayers. The district employs a full-time police department to protect this investment, as well as to help maintain a safe environment for students and staff.

2. Who can student teach in Alief ISD?

For over 25 years, UNK has partnered with Alief to offer our student teachers a unique experience. Student teachers at both the elementary and the secondary level may student teach in Houston. Any endorsement or combination of endorsements is accepted. Students must have a 3.0 or above GPA to be eligible.

3. Do student teachers at Alief ISD get paid?

Student teachers at Alief ISD qualify for participation in a Texas grant that allows them to be paid. Technically, student teachers become employees of the Alief ISD and are paid an hourly wage (at or around \$13.54/hour for up to 37.5 hours per week).

4. Where would student teachers live?

Students are responsible for their own living arrangements. Alief ISD can refer students to a company that can assist them in finding a safe, affordable apartment. Many times UNK student teachers room together to help offset costs. They do not have to use the placement company if they have other living arrangements.

5. What kind of support can student teachers expect during their time at Alief?

The Alief ISD is committed to making the student teaching semester an outstanding experience. Human Resources schedules a student teacher orientation to allow them the opportunity to engage on an individual level. They also meet a number of Alief teachers who are UNK graduates and native Nebraskans

– they are excellent resources for school questions, as well as what to do in their spare time.

The University supervisor for UNK's student teachers is a former Alief ISD principal. She has worked with Nebraska student teachers for many years and is committed to supporting the student teachers throughout their experience. The supervisor works directly with UNK's Director of Field Experiences to ensure that all UNK requirements are successfully met.

6. Who is the contact person for Alief ISD in Houston?

Shawn Williams, Director of Human Resources for Alief ISD, visit the UNK campus twice a year, in October and in March. On those days, students may drop in to visit with them about the program. Shawn will also make presentations in Teacher Education classes. These visits are advertised across campus. Contact Shawn Williams at shawn.williams@aliefisd.net.