Dexter Alternative Educational Programs Update

Monday, October 19, 2026

Dexter Virtual Academy & Dexter Alternative High School

Dexter Alternative Educational Programs has two offerings:

Dexter Virtual Academy and **Dexter Alternative High School**

These offerings have the following in common:

- Students have full access to Dexter High School extracurricular clubs, after school events, and DCS athletics
- Students graduate with a Dexter High School diploma and participate fully in commencement ceremonies
- Students earn credits through virtual courses, taking six courses per semester
- Students are required to take the same statewide assessments as their peers at Dexter High School
- Enrollment for one or more semesters, may transition back to Dexter High School

Dexter Virtual Academy & Dexter Alternative High School

Dexter Virtual Academy

- Weekly meetings (virtual or in-person) with Virtual Learning Coordinator
- Most commonly used virtual learning platforms are Michigan Virtual and Edmentum
- Great for students who require a very flexible schedule
- Supported by Ann Pregont, DCS Virtual Learning Coordinator, and DHS counselors
- Currently 7 high school students

Dexter Alternative High School

- In-person learning component three days per week
- Most commonly used virtual learning platform is Edgenuity
- Great for students who need both and flexibility and structure
- Supported by Jessica Baese, lead teacher; Erica Ehinger, teacher consultant; Nancy Miller, school social worker; and Alli Mattson, DHS counselor
- Currently 14 students

Dexter Virtual Academy

Dexter Virtual Academy offers students **flexibility**; many of the learners who choose Dexter Virtual Academy have schedules that involve travel team competitions, frequent medical appointments, or other time-intensive demands.

Other families may pursue Dexter Virtual Academy because of the wide variety of course offerings.

This video, published in the 25-26 school year, does a nice job of outlining the differences between full-time virtual learning (Dexter Virtual Academy) and individual online course enrollment.



https://dhs.dexterschools.org/academics

Dexter Alternative High School

Dexter Alternative High School was founded in the Fall 2016 and originally operated in the Copeland Building. In Fall 2019, the program moved into the Louie Ceriani Building at 8100 Shield Road.

Dexter Alternative is an invitation-only high school program for students who have been identified by Dexter High School staff as students who might thrive in this program. The student, their family, and staff from both Dexter High School and Dexter Alternative school must all be in agreement with the decision to transfer to Dexter Alternative.

Many students who come to Dexter Alternative High School have fallen behind in their high school credits, struggle to attend school consistently, or are experiencing challenges outside of school that might otherwise jeopardize their academic progress. But don't be mistaken: Dexter Alternative students want to learn, have goals for their futures, and choose to enroll with us!



"Hard work beats talent when talent sleeps in!"
~ DAS Class of 2023 graduate (when asked what advice he would give to current DAS students)

Flexibility

Dexter Alternative High School is designed to be responsive to students' needs.

Some examples include:

- Individualized course pacing to accommodate students' goals and circumstances
- Relaxed environment with flexible workspaces
- In their senior year, some students are able to graduate early while others might opt to dual enroll

This kind of flexibility is exactly what some students require to achieve on-time graduation and postsecondary success!

"Being able to finish high school through the Alt Ed program while pregnant with my son gave me the flexibility to graduate and keep moving toward my goal."
~ DAS Class of 2023 graduate

Connection

Dexter Alternative High School offers students opportunities to connect with peers and supportive staff.

Grants received through the Mental Health Public Safety Preservation Mileage have allowed our students to practice yoga at Verapose Yoga and visit community cultural sites like the University of Michigan Museum of Art.

The Educational Foundation of Dexter has also supported community-building outings for our students. One example is a field trip to Howell Nature Center.



"Dexter Alternative accepted everybody and the teachers were equipped to be accepting for those who needed a second chance or a change. The program works and changed my life to make me a productive graduate and I am very grateful for the opportunity Alt Ed offered me."
~ DAS Class of 2023 graduate

"Dexter Alternative School gave me a more one-on-one learning experience and the support I needed when it mattered most. I'll always be grateful for the people who made me feel understood and supported."
~ DAS Class of 2025 graduate

Life Skills for College & Career Readiness

Dexter Alternative High School students have career-focused experiential learning opportunities like visits to Washtenaw Community College to learn about the enrollment process and behind-the-scenes tours of Delta Airlines at DTW to learn about the aviation industry.

Our friends from The Dexter Rotary Club have supported many of our career learning experiences and have provided scholarships to several of our graduates.





"Dexter's alternative program had some of the greatest teachers I've ever had. With their help I was able to make a complete 180 on my grades and got a 4.0 gpa in my first college class in my senior year."
~ DAS Class of 2024 graduate