

## INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR LEARNING ALTERNATIVES

### IALA

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## Goals, Purposes, Beliefs

### Mission

To lead, promote and support learning alternatives in education.

### Definition

Learning alternatives are voluntary educational choices and options available to everyone.

### Purpose

- Present a broad array of choices for learners and staff.
- Provide a continuum of schools from traditional to highly innovative public, home-based, and non-public.
- Exemplify democratic values through learner-centered participation.
- Reflect diverse cultures, interests and learning styles.
- Recognize that the learning process varies among individuals.
- Encourage innovative approaches and organizational models.

### Rationale

People have a choice of political parties, religions, and automobiles. IALA believes they should also have an array of educational programs to maximize learner potential. Long-standing research in school reform proves there is no uniform model of education that can best serve **all** learners. Some may thrive in one program but do poorly in another. Multiple diverse choices offer opportunities for every learner to find the educational programs that affirm and fulfill individual and societal goals.

### Objective

IALA exists to assist communities in exploring and implementing a wide variety of educational options for each learner through the reallocation of resources and creative organizational designs.