

Alvord ISD Family: I have some highlights for you from the September 22, 2025 school board meeting.

Career & Technical Education (CTE) Update

Alvord High School Counselor Catherine Kelly shared an overview of Alvord ISD's CTE program, which prepares students for careers and college through hands-on learning and industry certifications.

- Programs of Study: Agricultural Technology & Mechanical Systems, Teaching & Training, Business Management, Diagnostic & Therapeutic Services, Animal Science
- Student Participation (2025–2026):
 - AMS – 92 of 183 students enrolled in at least one CTE course
 - AHS – 232 of 243 students enrolled in at least one CTE course
- Certifications: AWS Sheet Metal Welding, Educational Aide I, Microsoft Office Specialist; additional certifications planned in Health Science and Animal Science pathways
- Impact: CTE courses improve engagement, attendance, graduation rates, and College, Career & Military Readiness (CCMR), contributing to Alvord ISD's accountability rating improvement

Enrollment & Demographic Study Update

District enrollment: 877 students (fall 2025), above moderate projections and just below high projections from the 2021 Demographic Study.

- Growth trends indicate enrollment is tracking near the upper end of projections, supporting planning for staffing and resources.

Cell Phone Policy Survey Results

- **Background:** The district's new cell phone policy is required by recent Texas legislation banning student use of cell phones during the school day.
- Teachers report students are more engaged, focus better, interact more with peers, and complete more work. Overall, staff feedback is overwhelmingly positive.
- Students report boredom, frustration, and limited communication with family/friends as main challenges. While a few students noticed improved focus or more social interaction, most felt little personal benefit. Overall, student response is mixed to negative.

Summary: Staff see clear benefits for classroom management and student engagement, while students are still adjusting to the new rules.

Library Materials Policy Update – Senate Bill 13 (SB 13)

- SB 13 enhances parental access and control over library materials and requires districts to adopt updated library policies.
- Key points:
 - Parents will have access to view the library catalog and restrict materials for their child
 - Library material updates must be approved by the board at an open meeting
- Alvord ISD is updating its procedures and policies to comply with SB 13 for the 2025–2026 school year.

Thanks to the **team effort of students, staff, parents, and the community**, Alvord ISD has had a strong and successful start to the 2025–2026 school year!

Randy Brown
Alvord ISD Superintendent