



**ACADEMY OF ACCELERATED LEARNING, INC.
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)
ELEMENTARY (PK – 5th)**

When was the Academy of Accelerated Learning, Inc. established?

The Academy of Accelerated Learning, Inc. (AAL), received its charter license from The State of Texas in 1998 as a Generation 2 charter.

Is the Academy of Accelerated Learning, part of the Houston Independent School District?

No. The Academy of Accelerated Learning, Inc. is not associated with the Houston Independent School District. As a public charter school district, AAL reserves the right to create, establish and enforce its own school rules, student achievement standards, and attendance guidelines all in compliance with the Texas Education Agency (TEA) guidelines.

What grades are accepted at the Academy of Accelerated Learning, Inc.?

The elementary school accepts grades of PK3- 5th. The middle school accepts grades of 6th – 8th.

Has the charter been renewed by the state of Texas?

Yes. The charter has been renewed to the year 2023. The district is in good standing with all academic and financial ratings. The district has an academic rating of Met Standard with a grade of "B" rating and a Superior financial rating.

What are the school office hours?

The **school office** hours are Monday — Friday from 7:30 am to 5:00 pm

What are the school hours? What is the instructional time?

Daily Instructional Hours: Monday — Friday 8:00a.m. — 3:30p.m.

The Instructional Time is 7.5 hrs. or 450 minutes per day

7:00 a.m.	Early-Care students report to the cafeteria. This is a paid program.
7:30 a.m.	Breakfast service in the cafeteria. Breakfast is free to all students. Those already in the cafeteria will be escorted by staff and/or the school safety team to their classrooms. No student will be admitted into the building before 7:30 a.m.
7:55 a.m.	Students report to class. Those already in the cafeteria will be escorted by staff and/or the school safety team to their classrooms.
8:00 a.m.	School day begins. Any student entering the classroom after 8:00 a.m. is considered tardy.
10:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.	Lunch: (see teacher schedule for each class time)
3:30 – 4:00 p.m.	Dismissal
4:00 - 6:00 p.m.	Extended Care students report to the cafeteria. This is a paid program.

Late pick up	Parents who have not picked up their child(ren) at their scheduled dismissal time will be charged a “late fee” of \$5.00 per every fifteen (15) minutes that parents are late.
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Pre-K3 (AM):	Pre-K (PM):	Pre-K 4—5th:
Instructional time: 8:00 - 11:45 am	Instructional time: 12:30 - 3:30p.m.	Instructional time: 8:00 a.m - 3:00 p.m.
Breakfast: 7:30 - 7:55 a.m.	Lunch: 12:00 - 12:25p.m.	Lunch: 10:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. (see teacher schedule for each class time)

Are school uniforms required?

Yes. All students attending the Academy of Accelerated Learning, Inc. must wear a school uniform. The school colors are red and white tops and khaki bottoms. The school uniform is as follows:

Top: Polo Styled Shirt: Red or White **Bottoms:** Khaki Pants, shorts, skirts, dress
Belts: Must wear a belt with pants **Shoes:** Must be closed in. No open-toe shoes.

****School shirts with the Academy of Accelerated Learning logo sold in the school office.***

What is the Student to Teacher Ratio?

The state currently states a 22:1 ratio is acceptable for PK-4th classes.

How do I turn in an excuse for my child’s absence?

After an absence, the student will give the Attendance Clerk or his/her teacher a written excuse from the parent or a medical professional stating the reason for the absence and a phone number for verification. Absences are excused for the student’s personal illness, illness or death or an immediate family member, participation in legitimate school activities with permission of the principal, or emergency/extenuating circumstances as recognized by the principal or principals designee. Absences for religious holidays are not counted against a student’s attendance record as long as the parent notifies the school in writing prior to the student’s observance of a religious holiday. Any other planned absences must have prior approval from the campus administrator. ***The parent must turn in the excuse within three days of the absence.*** Failure to provide documentation for Excused Absences may result in denial of make-up work.

What to do in case of a weather emergency?

As a public charter school district, but residing within the HISD area, the Academy of Accelerated Learning, Inc., will follow all weather advisory recommendations for school closures announced by the HISD superintendent. In the event of inclement weather, employees, students, and parents should listen to radio, television, and refer to the district webpage www.aalinc.org for announcements and information about the closing of schools and offices.

Can my child fail a grade for excessive absences?

Yes. A student may fail a grade should he or she have an excessive amount of absences §§25.092 and 11.158 (Ninety Percent Rule). Section 25.092 conditions credit for a class on a student's attendance for at least 90 percent of the days a class is offered. A student who is in attendance for at least 75 percent, but less than 90 percent of the days a class is offered, may be given credit if the student completes a plan approved by the principal that allows the student to meet the instructional requirements of the class. If the student is under the jurisdiction of a court in a criminal or juvenile justice proceeding, the student may not receive credit for completing such a plan without the consent of the presiding judge.

As a public charter school district, AAL reserves the right to create, establish and enforce its own school attendance guidelines all in compliance with the Texas Education Agency (TEA) guidelines. AAL attendance policy is ninety-eight (98%) daily attendance.

How can I schedule a Parent/Teacher conference?

To schedule a Parent/Teacher Conference you have several options:

1. Call or visit the school directly to set an appointment
2. Email your child's teacher at his/her school email
3. Send a letter in your student folder

How do I sign my child out if he or she needs to leave for an appointment?

All parents, guardians, or designated persons must sign the student(s) out at the main office only. Parents may not walk in, proceed to the classroom, and pick up students.

For appointments, students must be picked up **before 2:00 p.m.** NO EXCEPTIONS!

Can I celebrate my child's birthday at school?

Yes. Students birthday celebrations are certainly encouraged and welcomed. Celebrations may only take place on the last calendar day of each month. Party times are scheduled from 1:30 - 2:30 p.m.

Will parents be permitted to enter the school building?

Yes. During the first week of school, at the beginning of the day and end of the day, parents will be permitted to enter the building to get familiar with the school, teacher, classroom setting, and other areas of the school. After the first week of school, all parents must schedule a parent/teacher conference to visit the classroom teacher or other school administrator or personnel.

Does AAL provide transportation?

No. AAL does not provide bus service. Parents are responsible for providing transportation for their children. Download the **PikMyKid** app (IOS or Android) to get the student dismissal number.

All students are dismissed according to:

- **Walkers** - Parents who do not have a car, who walk, and/or use public transportation to pick up their child.
- **Private Cars** – Parents with a car use the carpool line with the dismissal number displayed in the front windows.
- **Private Day Care Buses** - Parents who pay for private bus transportation for child pick up. Notify the school office of daycare bus pick up in the main office.

What is the morning drop-off process for students?

It is extremely important that parents follow the morning drive-up and drop-off process. Parents will remain in their vehicles and follow the car line up to the drop-off zone. Students will be escorted out of the vehicles and the student will walk into the school building and proceed to the cafeteria for breakfast. This is not a time for parents to get out of their vehicle for whatever reason given it backs up the drop-off process.

What is the afternoon pick-up process for students?

There are three dismissal methods: *Car, Walker, and Private Bus Service.*

All parents will receive a Car Hanging Dismissal Tag to place on their rearview mirror. Each student will receive a number for identification on the hanging tag based on the dismissal system of **PikMyKid**. Each teacher and the main office will have a listing of each student's number.

Where do I pick up my child if a car rider?

Car riders are students whose parents line up in the carpool line and wait for their child's number to be called. The students are released based on lineup order of first come, first dismissed. A staff member will be outside with a handheld radio calling out the Car Hanging Dismissal Tag number based on the dismissal system of **PikMyKid**. Each teacher in the classroom will hear the number and each child will come to the front of the building where he/she will be escorted and placed into the vehicle.

During this time the **NO CELL PHONE POLICY** is enforced.

Where do I pick up my child if a walker?

Walkers are students whose parents physically walk to school or have no vehicle available to pick up their child. Any parent who chooses to park off campus and walk up to pick up their child is responsible for any towing that may occur. Parents cannot park on campus and walk up to pick up their child. Parents will pick up their child in the outside area of the school cafeteria. Parents will line up and students will be dismissed based on a first come, first dismissed. Walkers are released at the same time as car riders. **NO EXCEPTIONS!**

What is the process for students who ride private bus/daycare transportation?

Parents must fill out a Transportation Form located in the main office. No student will be placed in any bus/daycare services vehicles without the transportation services registration/agreement on file. All students are gathered in the cafeteria and escorted to their bus/daycare of service.

AAL does not endorse, promote, contract, delegate responsibilities, or negotiations with any private bus or daycare services. AAL is not responsible for fees, hours, accidents, lost/stolen items, or any contractual notices between parents and bus/daycare transportation services.

What is the process for receiving free lunch for my child?

All students who attend AAL can eat **Breakfast and Lunch FREE**. Parents must complete a short Child Nutrition Lunch Application.

May I eat lunch with my child?

There are opportunities to have lunch with your child on special cultural/holidays in the fall and spring semesters. In the fall semester, we have our Family Thanksgiving Dinner and in the spring semester, we have our Easter cultural/holiday lunch. Any other special lunch request may be submitted in writing for consideration by the principal.

May I volunteer in my child's class or another area of the school?

Yes. All parents are invited and encouraged to volunteer in their child's class during the school year based on the teacher's request. ALL volunteers must complete a Volunteer Background Check each semester before being permitted to enter a classroom/campus/field trip. Volunteers may assist during class time and all school events. All volunteers must check in and check out in the front office prior to reporting to the area of choice.

How do I communicate between home and school?

AAL Red Student folders are sent home with notices daily. Please check your child's backpack daily for important notes sent home by the teacher or office. This will help keep you informed of classroom and school information. Students' AAL Red Homework Folder will be used to record homework, projects, and important dates. Parents are expected to monitor this planner daily to help their child stay organized and prepared.

Parents may use e-mail as a way to communicate with their child's teacher. Please keep these messages brief. Please be aware that the teacher may need up to 48 hours to respond to you. Always address concerns with the teacher first before contacting an administrator.

What is your homework policy?

Students at every grade level have homework. At our Open House Nights, teachers will share with you their expectations and procedures for homework. Every child is expected to read a minimum of 20 minutes every night in addition to other homework.

What is the school discipline policy?

Parents and students will receive the Academy of Accelerated Learning Code of Student Conduct Handbook. Also available at www.aalinc.org. In all classrooms, teachers establish, review, and post the rules of conduct expected. Minor infractions are handled by the teacher. Students are afforded consistent, fair, and predictable standards of conduct management, responses, and interventions. Teachers also send daily/weekly conduct grades home.

Discipline matters of a more serious nature are handled in the office and the teacher must complete a discipline referral.

Consequences for misbehavior are assigned based on the level of the infraction. During disciplinary actions, we work to protect the classroom from disruptions, correct the behavior, protect the dignity of the student, and partner with parents to make consequences meaningful and appropriate.