Alief ISD Q & A’s

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 45,000 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 41 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?
Student teachers at both the elementary and the secondary level may student teach in Houston. Dual majors (ELED/SPED) are not eligible to student teach in Alief during the fall semester as there is not enough weeks to complete the required hours for certification.

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 is at or around $12.65/hour for up to 40 hours per week. Student may not work, either paid or on a volunteer basis beyond that timeframe (coaching, etc.).

4. Where would I live?
You are responsible for your own living arrangements. Alief ISD has a company that can assist you in finding a safe, affordable apartment. Many times UNL student teachers room together to help offset costs. You do not have to use the placement company if you have other living arrangements.

5. When would I start?
The Alief fall semester begins with a staff workday on August 15. You will be required to attend an orientation tentatively scheduled on Friday, August 12th, so please plan accordingly.

6. What kind of support can I expect during my student teaching semester at Alief?
The Alief ISD is committed to making your student teaching semester an outstanding experience. Human Resources schedules a Nebraska-only student teacher orientation (UNL, UNK, etc.), to allow you the opportunity to engage on an individual level. You will also meet a number of Alief teachers who are native
Nebraskans – they are excellent resources for school questions, as well as what to do in your spare time.

The University supervisor for our student teachers is a former Alief ISD principal. She has worked with Nebraska student teachers for many years and is committed to supporting you through your experience. Dr. Sara Skretta, Director of Professional Experiences, is also a resource to assist you in any way you might need.

7. **How will I know if I’m accepted to student teach in Alief ISD?**
The Office of Field Experiences will notify you mid-March if you have been accepted to student teach in Alief. Human Resources professionals from Alief will be on campus to meet with all student teachers in March as well.

8. **Will I be able to attend UNL graduation?**
Student teachers will complete the 16-week assignment on Friday, December 9, 2016. Graduation is scheduled on December 17th.

9. **Can I contact someone student teaching in Alief this semester with other questions?**
Dr. Skretta can provide you with the contact information for student teachers currently in an Alief placement upon request.