

# Intermediate District 287

RESPONSIVE. INNOVATIVE. SOLUTIONS.

## ***Communication Interaction Program (CIP)***

***Site: Sandburg Education Center  
2400 Sandburg Lane North, Golden Valley, MN 55427***

***Site: South Education Center  
7450 Penn Avenue South, Richfield, MN 55423***

### ***Target Population***

The Communication Interaction Program (CIP) serves students in grades K-12 with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). Some students may have additional disabilities such as Oppositional Defiant Disorder (ODD), Obsessive Compulsive Disorder (OCD), Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD)/Attention Deficit Hyperactive Disorder (ADHD), Learning Disabilities (LD), other neurobiological disorders, mental health diagnoses (such as anxiety and depression) and developmental cognitive delay (DCD). Students participating will have cognitive abilities ranging from mild/moderate cognitive delays to above average.

### ***Student Profile***

These students have significant challenges in the areas of communication, sensory integration and social interaction. In regards to communication, students have challenges understanding others and expressing themselves, both verbally and nonverbally. In the area of sensory integration students can be over- or under-sensitive to the stimuli in their environment, which can lead to anxiety. Typically, these learners are visual learners and need assistance for organization in all areas of learning. They also need a predictable, yet flexible individualized environment.

### ***Mission/Goals***

We provide a specialized, small group setting for students, which allows for flexible design of schedule and strategies and appropriate inclusive options. Self-regulation, communication, interaction and self-advocacy skills are taught. We prepare students for a successful transition from school to work and independent living. The program mission reflects District 287's commitment to blend district and community resources to effectively create a nurturing and growing learning environment to meet the needs of each student. Students experience belonging, mastery, interdependence and generosity through this program.

### ***Components***

#### ***Academic Skills:***

- Assessment of strength areas
- Emphasis on teaching strategies to enable students to enhance their work skills
- Academic areas to accelerate talents and remediate areas of need
- Minnesota Basic Skills and Academic Standards as appropriate to individual learner
- Functional application of academics to increase independence in life skills

#### ***Social/Behavior:***

- Social Skill Groups emphasizing disability awareness, communication and interaction skills
- Self advocacy development relative to the unique needs of each student
- Environmental accommodations based on student needs, for example, visual schedules and organizational systems
- Sensory motor opportunities integrated into student activities
- Experiential approaches to learning
- Sensory diet integrated throughout students' day
- Direct teaching of "hidden curriculum"

**Vocational/Transition Skills:**

- Age appropriate opportunities for vocational training (Career exploration and assessment, Service Learning, Hennepin Technical College resources, work experience opportunities and Vocational Evaluation and Training)
- Development of an array of strategies and skills in regards to ASD and mental health needs
- Independent living skills

**Family/Interagency Collaboration:**

- School Social Worker
- Co-located mental health services

**Community-Based Services:**

- Activities as appropriate (library, parks, museums, humane society etc.)

**Inclusion:**

- Individual student opportunities

**Physical/Fitness and Motor:**

- Developmental Adaptive Physical Education (DAPE)
- Occupational Therapy
- Physical Therapy
- Communication Disorder Specialist (CDS) [Speech/Language]

**Program Core**

Licensed Ratio: 2.5  
Non Licensed Ratio: 1.95

**Staffing Includes:**

## Program Core

- Licensed/Highly Qualified Instructors
- Educational Assistants

## Support Staff

- Program Facilitator
- School Social Worker
- Developmental Adaptive Physical Education (DAPE) Staff
- Work Experience Coordinator
- School Psychological Services
- Nursing Services

## Other Support Staff, as needed

- Assistive Technology Specialist
- Audiologist
- Autism Specialist
- Behavior Specialist
- Communication Disorder Specialist (CDS)
- Due Process Facilitator
- Educational Audiology Specialist
- Low Incidence Specialists (Deaf/Hard of Hearing [D/HH], Blind/Visually Impaired [B/VI], and Physical/Health Disabilities [PHD] teachers)
- Job Coaches
- Materials Production Specialist (Braille, etc.)
- Occupational Therapy (OT) Staff
- Orientation & Mobility (O&M) Specialist
- Physical Therapy (PT) Staff
- Sign Language Interpreter

**For further information contact:**

**Carrie Agre, Sandburg Program Facilitator.**

**Therese Feldmeier, SEC Program Facilitator**