

# Intermediate District 287

RESPONSIVE. INNOVATIVE. SOLUTIONS.

## ***InVEST – High School***

*In Vocational, Educational, and Social Transition*

**Sites: Northwest Technology Center**

**7008 Northland Drive, Suite 100, Brooklyn Park, MN 55428**

**Bren Road Education Center, 11140 Bren Road West, Minnetonka, MN 55343**

### ***Target Population***

The target population includes high school students, 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade who are receiving special education services primarily for Emotional Behavioral Disorder (EBD), need social, academic & transition skills development. This program may include students with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD).

### ***Student Profile***

Most life areas are impacted by chronic mental illness. Some students with a chronic mental illness diagnosis are more likely to exhibit serious and persistent behavior in the community, home, school, and work. Student ability level ranges from borderline to gifted ability. Students have high needs in the transition areas: Post-Secondary Education and Training, Employment, Community Participation, Recreation/Leisure, and Home Living/Daily Living Skills.

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

InVEST students will learn skills to manage their mental health needs in order to achieve a safe level of maximum self-sufficiency. Students will successfully master academics, functional academics, and transition skills. This will be achieved through individualized interventions, and through school, community and vocational based experiences. Students will increase understanding of their own mental health needs, and improve personal responsibility and self-advocacy skills in order to manage their needs in the five areas of transition.

### ***Components***

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

- Prepare for Minnesota standards testing
- Individualized and Group Instruction in core and functional academics and all areas of transition

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

- Positive school/community milieu
- Individual and Group Social skill instruction and interventions
- Social worker and psychologist support
- Access to outside resources to enhance learning
- Students are actively involved in developing their transition Individual Education Plan (IEP), supported to lead the IEP meeting
- Development of Coping Skills
- Community experiences and instruction

#### ***Pre-Vocational Skills:***

- Transition Assessment beginning at age 14
- Introduction of work behavior skills necessary to acquire and maintain employment
- School-based work experiences

#### ***Family/Interagency Collaboration:***

- School Social Worker and Work Experience Coordinators access community resources, co-located mental health services

**Community-Based Services:**

- Experiential learning
- Hennepin County co-located services
- Rehabilitative services
- Community support programs
- Case management through *Storefront*
- Intensive psychological evaluation
- Specialty support groups
- Chemical health support
- Family/school coordination
- Restorative Justice
- Crisis Intervention

**Inclusion:**

- Reintegration to the student's home school is the exception

**Physical/Fitness and Motor:**

- Physical activities take place in the community

**Program Core**

Licensed Ratio: 4.4

Non-Licensed Ratio: 3.8

Teacher-to-Student Ratio: 1:9-10

**Staffing Includes:**

Program Core

- Licensed/Highly Qualified Instructors
- Educational Assistants

Support Staff

- Program Facilitator
- School Social Worker
- 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**

***InVEST North: Kimber Doty, Program Facilitator***

***InVEST South: Robin Thomas, Program Facilitator***