

# Intermediate District 287

RESPONSIVE. INNOVATIVE. SOLUTIONS.

## **OPTIONS Middle**

*Opportunities to Pursue Training In Occupational Needs and Schools*

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

### **Target Population**

The target population includes middle-school aged students (grades 6-8) identified Emotional Behavioral Disorder (EBD).

### **Student Profile**

These students have not been successful in less restrictive settings or are reintegrating from more restrictive settings. Students are fragile, vulnerable, frequently truant, experiencing significant mental health issues, chemical use or abuse, family discord, and/or correction involvement. Students have a typical social and physical presentation with low average to high ability. They experience social isolation in the community from resources, such as, churches, YMCA, sports activities, and mainstream school functions. These students need a small structured setting with high staff to student ratio to address academic needs through a relationship and processing approach.

### **Mission/Goals**

Students will successfully master academic and life-skill goals through individualized interventions, which lead to academic learning, reintegration, and successful life experiences. This will be achieved by each student experiencing belonging, mastery, independence, and generosity through community and vocational-based experience.

### **Components**

#### **Academic Skills:**

- Daily structured academic instruction
- Direct Instruction Saxon Math
- Individualized assessment
- Preparation for Basic Skills Tests and Minnesota Comprehensive Assessment (MCA II)
- Curriculum aligned with Minnesota Academic Standards
- Experiential approaches
- Community-based activities

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

- Positive, structured, and supportive school/community milieu
- Community experience
- Group activities
- Role-modeling opportunities
- Social work support
- Skills to manage their own behavior
- Social skill instruction

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

- Experience success
- Vocational & Pre-assessment for work experience
- Transportation to community outreach
- Students have the opportunity to attend District 287's Vocational Evaluation and Training (VET) program to begin to work on developing appropriate work habits and vocational skills.
- At age 14, students become eligible for supported community employment.

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

- Volunteer opportunities

- Parent support resources
- Range of co-located mental health services
- Chemical health specialist

**Community-Based Services:**

- Community-based experiential activities
- Culturally sensitive support and counseling
- Community Police Liaison
- Clinical Consultants
- Assistance with accessing Hennepin County resources: Crisis Assistance Team, County Attorney, Juvenile Probation
- Mental Health Coordinator
- Psychiatric/Psychologist Consultant
- Experiential Learning Coordinator

**Inclusion:**

- Systematic reintegration process to ensure readiness

**Physical/Fitness and Motor:**

- YMCA

**Program Core**

Licensed Ratio: 4.5

Non-Licensed Ratio: 3.85

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

**Staffing Includes:**

Program Core

- Licensed/Highly Qualified Instructors
- Educational Assistants

Support Staff

- Program Facilitator
- School Social Worker
- 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 Amy Sward, Special Education Supervisor.**