

Epsilon

**Site: Hennepin County Home School
14300 Highway 62, Minnetonka, MN 55345**

Target Population

The target population includes youth, ages 12 to 19, court-ordered to Hennepin County Home School – a state-licensed residential correctional treatment center. Many are identified as having special education disabilities, primarily Emotional Behavioral Disorders (EBD). The youth have a wide range of behavioral and academic needs, mental illnesses, and chemical dependency issues.

Student Profile

The student population is 90% male, between 12 and 19 years of age (average age 16), 80% students of color, court-ordered to a correctional treatment program due to significant criminal behavior (84% felony offenders), over half with a history of previous out-of-home placements, 70% with a mental health diagnosis, a high percentage with chemical abuse background, most achieving below grade level academically (median grade score of 6.9 in reading comprehension, median grade score 6.8 in applied math), and 65% receiving special education services.

Mission/Goals

As a diverse learning community in a care-and-treatment setting, Epsilon is passionately committed to empowering all learners for life-long success by seeking and providing relevant, innovative, and creative educational experiences in a safe, nurturing, and respectful environment.

All students will acquire educational skills and knowledge to include, at a minimum, the following: literacy, appropriate standards, needed social skills, and interpersonal behaviors that facilitate learning. All students will develop self-efficacy and advocacy skills, such that they will make appropriate post-secondary choices. Students will also develop skills in appropriate risk-taking and positive decision-making, which reflects growing internal motivation.

Components

Academic Skills:

- Secondary regular and special education instruction
- Individualized assessment and differentiated instruction methodology
- Preparation for Basic Skills testing and attainment of academic standards, leading to high school graduation
- Title I supplemental support in reading and math
- Experiential, hands-on approaches

Social/Behavior:

- Social skills and life skills development embedded in daily behavior support system
- Direct instruction in social and life skills
- Program-wide system for behavior interventions and support
- Functional behavioral assessments and behavior intervention plans
- Epsilon and correctional program collaboratively implement interventions and supports

Vocational Skills:

- Career assessment and exploration, pre-vocational and vocational skills instruction, work-based learning experiences, post-secondary technical training options

Family/Interagency Collaboration:

- Family involvement is integral to Epsilon and the correctional treatment program
- Family involvement in Individual Education Plan (IEP) planning and parent conferences

Community-Based Services:

- Artists-in-residence (e.g., theater, poetry, visual arts, music)
- Culturally sensitive mental and chemical health support provided by county
- Psychiatric consultation regarding students available to classroom teachers
- Osiris Computer Lab – Mentors to teach computer programming skills
- Hennepin County Library services, including librarian providing monthly “Book Talk” – promoting relevant and appealing books to the students

Inclusion:

- Students with special education needs attend classes with non-disabled students

Physical/Fitness and Motor:

- Physical Education classes
- Developmental Adaptive Physical Education (DAPE) services, when needed
- County-provided recreation activities after school

Program Core

Licensed Ratio: 6.5

Non Licensed Ratio: 15.9

Teacher-to-Student Ratio: 1:7-9

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 call (763) 205-7601.