

Communication Interaction Program (CIP)

North Education Center - 5530 Zealand Ave, New Hope, MN 55428
South Education Center - 7450 Penn Avenue South, Richfield, MN 55423

Target Population

The Communication Interaction Program (CIP) serves students K-12th grade with ASD or other neurobiological disorders. Students in CIP have cognitive disabilities ranging from mild to superior range.

Student Profile

These students have significant challenges in the areas of communication, sensory integration and social interaction. Students in CIP have difficulty understanding others and expressing themselves. A sensory diet is incorporated into the school day to assist students who are over or under sensitive to the stimuli in their environment (which can lead to anxiety.) Many of these learners are visual learners and need assistance for organization in all areas of learning. A predictable, yet flexible individualized environment helps our students.

Mission/Goals

Students will gain skills in self-regulation, communication, social interaction and self-advocacy in a rich academic environment. Students will focus on learning calming strategies to support success across multiple settings.

Components

Academic Skills:

- Daily structured academic instruction
- Individualized assessment
- State testing preparation
- Curriculum aligned with MN Academic Standards

Social/Behavior:

- Social/Emotional Learning skills embedded into everyday curriculum
- Self-advocacy development relative to the unique needs of each student
- Environmental accommodations based on student needs, i.e., visual schedules and individualized organizational systems
- Speech Language Pathologists work to further develop student's verbal skills, including vocabulary and language comprehension/expansion, increasing their ability to access and participate in educational programming and social interaction skills.
- Sensory motor opportunities integrated into student activities
- Experiential approaches to learning
- Sensory diet integrated throughout students' day

Vocational/Transition Skills:

- Age appropriate opportunities for vocational training and career exploration and assessment
- Community based vocational learning opportunities
- Volunteer opportunities

Family/Interagency Collaboration:

- School Social Worker
- Co-located mental health services

Community-Based Services:

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

Inclusion:

- Systematic reintegration process to ensure readiness

Physical Fitness and Motor

- Developmental Adaptive Physical Education
- Fitness Class
- Movement opportunities to support Learning are provided throughout the student's day.
- Occupational Therapist works closely with staff to determine appropriate sensory/motor diets to help students self-regulate and develop coping skills.

Program Core

Licensed Ratio Student to Staff: 2.5:1
 Non-Licensed Ratio Student to EA: 1.95:1

Staffing Includes:	
- Autism Specialist	- Program Facilitator
- Behavior Support	- School Psychological Services
- Educational Assistants	- School Social Worker
- Fitness Class	- Support Staff
- Licensed/Highly Qualified Instructors	- Work Experience Coordinator (age 14-18 yrs}
- Licensed School Nurse	
Other Support Staff, as needed	
- DAPE	- Occupational Therapist
- Nursing Services	- Speech/Language Pathologist

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