

SUN

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

Target Population

The target population includes students, ages 5-18, who meet special education criteria for Developmental Cognitive Disability (DCD) and/or Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). Many students have also been diagnosed with Emotional Behavioral Disorder (EBD), Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD), Generalized Anxiety Disorders, and other mental health needs.

Student Profile

Every student at SUN has individualized special education needs that have exceeded current programming in member district schools. SUN students have a cognitive impairment, and most students have significant needs in the areas of social, emotional, sensory, communication and behavioral development. Many of the student profiles include documentation of significant behaviors which have jeopardized the safety of self and/or others. These students need intensified staff support with reduced ratios and environmental space that accommodates individual behavior and sensory needs.

Mission/Goals

SUN students will learn social, emotional, sensory, and academic and communication skills/ strategies to meet their maximum potential.

Components

Academic Skills:

- Emphasis on individualized goals and objectives as it relates to academic areas.
- Apply academic skills in real life situations.
- Most students are assessed using the state alternate assessment tests.

Social/Behavior:

- Students are instructed in developing appropriate social skills in school, community and in the workplace.
- Students are instructed in coping strategies to manage self-control and increase self-esteem.
- Most students have a Social Learning Profile/Positive Behavior Support Plan that identifies behavior, intent, and
- Recommends positive strategies and interventions that are supportive to the student.
- Staff members are trained in Crisis Prevention Intervention (CPI) techniques and implement those strategies with students in order to maintain a caring, safe, and secure environment.
- Speech Language Pathologists work closely with staff and students to establish verbal and augmentative communication systems allowing all students to access and participate in educational programming and further develop appropriate communication behaviors.

Vocational/Transition Skills:

- Students are given work opportunities in a variety of settings/environments including ECLIPSE and volunteer community or school jobs

Physical/Fitness and Motor:

- Developmental adaptive Physical education (DAPE)
- 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.

Family/Interagency Collaboration:

- Collaboration with community agencies to provide services to students and families
- School, home and community operate as a trans-disciplinary team to best meet the student's needs.

Other:

- Transition students back to member district program, if determined to be appropriate. District 287 staff work together with member districts to create the transition supports that can make this successful.

Program Core

Licensed Ratio: 2.7
 Non Licensed Ratio: 1.6

Staffing Includes	
-Licensed/Highly Qualified Instructors	-Educational Assistants
Support Staff	
-Autism Specialist	-School Psychological Services
-Behavior Specialist	-School Social Worker
-Nursing Services	-Speech and Language Therapist (SP/L)
-Occupational Therapy	-Work Experience Coordinator (ages 14-18)
-Program Facilitator	-Other Support Stuff, as needed

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