

ASD PROGRAM

The ASD program services students with autism spectrum disorders, severe communication disorders and students requiring intensive instructional supports and social skills training. ASD (Autism Spectrum Disorders) program placement options range from restrictive placements with intensive supports to full integration in the general education setting. Given the diverse needs of our learners, we offer a variety of classroom settings with highly structured, predictable environments and intensive learning supports.

Program Models

An Applied Behavioral Analysis approach is implemented in classrooms supported by a Board Certified Behavior Analyst. Applied Behavioral Analyst Therapists are assigned to support specific classrooms using this methodology.

The SCERTS model is implemented in classrooms district-wide. SCERTS is a multidisciplinary approach to enhancing communication, and social-emotional abilities of individuals with ASD.

Classroom Models

Self-contained

Intensive specialized instruction across all stages and areas of development.

Self-contained w/ integration

Utilizing inclusion opportunities to tap into social and academic areas of strength.

Co-teaching model

A team approach to integrate services for students with ASD in a classroom with same age peers.

Flexible resource room

Support available for social skills training, emotional regulation and intensive academic instruction.

SOCIAL SKILLS TRAINING

Social skills training with an ASD Counselor for all staff and students is provided throughout the school year. An integrative group instructional approach emphasizes specific social skills.

Opportunities are provided for application and

generalization with typical peers. With the support of qualified paraprofessionals, all students are afforded the opportunity to integrate with nondisabled peers.

Staffing

Classroom sizes vary according to the developmental level of the student. For more challenged students, a classroom size would be six to eight students. For those students who function on a higher academic level and are more socially competent, the class size would be eight to ten students. Each ASD class is assigned one teacher and two paraprofessionals.

PARENT INVOLVEMENT

Each month Bridgeport Public Schools hosts a parent support group meeting. Childcare is provided to give parents the opportunity to attend. Activities include group discussions, speakers as well as community outings.

EXTENDED SCHOOL YEAR

In collaboration with Southern Connecticut State University, a social skills component is offered as an extension of Bridgeport Public Schools ESY program.