



## **School for Exceptional Studies**

Specialized Programs for Children in Kindergarten through Age 22

The School for Exceptional Studies provides a variety of specialized programs to meet the diverse needs of students enrolled in the Lawrence Public Schools. The school's mission is to meet the significant academic, social, cognitive and linguistic challenges of our students. The entire student population requires a structured environment in order to demonstrate success. At the present time, the School for Exceptional Studies has distinct programs for the following classifications of students.

### **Behavior/Therapeutic Learning Center – Special Needs Program**

Currently there are five classrooms for students who demonstrate behavior concerns and have an intellectual impairment in Kindergarten through age 22. One of the high school classrooms is designed to meet the academic and emotional needs of cognitive delayed students with mental health concerns.

### **Social Learning Center – Special Needs Program**

The program services students who function in the intellectually impaired category in Kindergarten through age 22 and have a diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder from a medical professional. The program utilizes TEACCH (Treatment and Education of Autistic and Communications – Handicapped Children) practices. The school has an alliance with the University of North Carolina @ Chapel Hill, Medical School Department of Psychiatry, who provide on-going training and consultation with the staff. Structured teaching and work systems are utilized to promote independence.

### **Therapeutic Learning Center – Special Needs Program**

The program currently services 175 students in grades K - 12. Students must carry a valid Axis I psychiatric diagnosis. No student whose primary diagnosis is Oppositional Defiant Disorder, Conduct Disorder or Attention Deficit Disorder with or without Hyperactivity is eligible. Any student whose diagnosis is not clear or specific (I.e. Mood Disorder, NOS, etc.) will be required to obtain further clarification from their community mental health provider prior to enrollment in this specialized program.

### **Progressive Learning Center – General and Special Need Program**

The program is currently designed to meet the behavior, academic and social challenges or a distinct group of general and special education high school students. All students in this program need to have a history of significant school behavior concerns and current involvement with the juvenile justice system.

### **District Wide Suspension Exclusion – General and Special Education**

Students are assigned to this Interim Alternative Education Placement for a maximum of 45 school days. Following the completion of required time student's return to their

home school. The student's home school is required to submit the necessary daily coursework and responsible for assessing all work and assigning grades. Students in the program are grouped based upon their grade level. One classroom is designated for students in grades 5-8 and the other for students in grade 9-12. The focus of the program is for students to keep current in the four core subject areas, (math, science, social studies and ELA). The teacher will provide individual and small group instruction to students in the core areas as students work to complete assignments from their home schools. Students will not participate in any "specials" during their time in the program. With parental consent all students are eligible for on-sight school counseling with a Lawrence Public School counselor, assigned to the program. The goal of the program is to ensure students do not lose valuable academic time and successfully transition back to their school.