



GLEC

Greater Lawrence Educational Collaborative

Excellence in Education

GLEC's Special Education Programs

GLEC provides services to students with identified special needs in a variety of settings. Current student services can be classified into four categories:

- Alternative School Programming
- Academic and Physical Services for students with multiple needs
- Substantially Separate Services for students on the Autism Spectrum
- Post High School Academic and Community Based Programs

Alternative School Programming (3 programs)

Collaborative Alternative School (CAS), Methuen, MA

The Collaborative Alternative School provides a coeducational learning/treatment environment for middle and high school aged students with educational, emotional and/or behavioral needs.

- **CAS PIVOT Program**

PIVOT is a short-term diagnostic assessment program (up to 45 days) for at risk middle and high school aged students.

- **CAS Suspension Alternative Program**

Suspension alternative provides temporary academic support services and counseling to students who are excluded from their school community.

- **CAS Pre-Vocational/Vocational Training**

Through career exploration, on-the-job training and in-house vocational opportunities, students in the transitional group at CAS are encouraged to develop marketable life skills.

- **CAS Culinary Arts Program**

This program is designed to engage students in a hands-on work setting, which allows students the opportunity to explore possible career choices within the food service industry.

Essex Academy, Methuen, MA

Essex Academy is a therapeutic school for students, grades 6 through 12, who have a documented history of psychological disorders. These disorders are significantly deterring them from making effective progress within their community's public school setting.

Students are provided individualized academic and therapeutic support services during the school day, with the ultimate goal of the student attaining a sufficient degree of mental and emotional health to allow a return to their respective community's public school.

GLEC's Other Services

Specialist Services

Specialist Services include registered occupational and physical therapists, speech therapists, certified occupational therapy assistants, a teacher of the visually impaired and orientation and mobility training.

Evaluative Services

Specialists are available to see students to do specific evaluations in the areas of assistive technology and Functional Behavioral Assessments.

Professional Development

The Collaborative's Educator Training Program (ETP) sponsors many professional development activities for educators in the member school districts. The Collaborative offers Professional Development workshops, seminars and college courses for educators in a wide variety of topics.

Special Needs Transportation

As an agent for its member school districts, the Collaborative is responsible for providing daily transportation services for students attending GLEC programs and private schools outside the Collaborative.

Cooperative Purchasing

The Cooperative Purchasing Committee is composed of the business administrators of GLEC's member districts and the purchasing agents of their respective municipalities.

Executive Director/Program Director Contact Information

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Substantially Separate Services for Students on the Autism Spectrum

Lifeways School

The purpose of the Lifeways School is to provide educational, behavioral, vocational and community supports to students with Autism Spectrum Disorders, developmental disabilities and challenging behaviors. For the most part, it is the students' challenging behaviors that have precluded them from receiving instruction in a regular educational setting.

An overriding goal of the Lifeways School is the reintegration of the student into his or her home school and neighborhood as soon as possible. In addition to targeting challenging behaviors for elimination, functional and more socially acceptable alternatives are taught. In this manner, students learn how to get what they want and need without resorting to what may be described as undesirable behaviors.

In addition to a general education curriculum based on the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks, the Lifeways School also employs a life skills curriculum designed to teach students skills they will need to live, work and play in a typical school and community. Thus, skills such as money use, cooking, cleaning, personal hygiene and community travel receive great emphasis.

Post High School Academic and Community Based Programs

SCALE (Satellite Classes for Applied Learning Experience)

SCALE is a school to work transition program that provides social, functional academic, and vocational education to students, ages 16-22, who have been identified as in need of school to adult life transitional skills. Much of the program is community based and vocational development is an integral component of the program.

VISIONS (Vocational, Instructional and Supported Industrial Opportunities with Natural Supports)

The VISIONS Program is a community based employment support program serving young adults over 22 years of age through a contract with the Department of Mental Retardation. It is based on the belief that work experience in the community is an effective means of increasing self-esteem, vocational maturity and employment skills.

GLEC's General Education Programs

Multicultural Enrichment Partnership

The GLEC Multicultural Enrichment Partnership (MEP) serves school districts of Lawrence, Andover, North Andover, Methuen, and Greater Lawrence Technical School with a wide range of intercommunity enrichment programs for more than 3,000 students in grades 1-12. Programs include: GLEC Pen Pals Program, AppleSeed Literary Magazine, AppleSauce Literary Magazine, AppleSpice (high school) Coffee House, Greater Lawrence Academic Bowl, and the Collaborative Visual Arts Awards.

Coastal Alternative School, Salisbury, MA

There are two programs housed in Salisbury at the Coastal Alternative School for students in grades 8-12 with emotional and/or social needs, they are the:

- **Alternative School**

This program services students from 8th grade through high school. A reality based, milieu oriented approach is utilized in providing small group academic instruction and behavioral/social skills development.

- **C.O.R.E. Program (Creating Opportunities through Refocusing on Education)**

The C.O.R.E. Program is an interim alternative educational setting (45 school days for at risk students who are having difficulties in their current school environment). The provision of a Functional Behavior Assessment and a subsequent Behavioral Intervention Plan is the focus of this placement. Students participate in the general curriculum of their sending school as well as behavioral/social skills curriculum designed to teach alternative behaviors that are more acceptable. Reintegration to the public school setting with assistance from C.O.R.E. staff is the goal of this program.

Academic and Physical Services for Students with Multiple Needs

EPIC (Education Promoting Integrated Classrooms)

The Education Promoting Inclusive Classrooms (EPIC) Program is designed to provide an individualized educational program to students with moderate to intensive special needs, including learners with multiple disabilities. Ten classrooms provide services for over 40 children in their least restrictive environment, public schools throughout the Collaborative.

Communities that have generously embraced these classrooms are: Amesbury (HS and MS), Haverhill (Nettle School), North Andover (MS and HS), and Lawrence (Rollins School).

All classrooms in the EPIC Program focus on building skills and experiences in the areas of communication, social and life skills. Students work towards their individual goals in academics, developing positive behaviors, as well as, leisure, technology and vocational skills, if applicable.

SteppingStone

The SteppingStone Extended Year Program provides a six-week educational day program to students, ages 3 to 22 that have moderate to intensive developmental delays or multiple disabilities. This program is located on the shores of Stiles Pond in Boxford on property leased from the Town of Boxford.

Goals are prioritized from the student's individualized education program (IEP) and carried over throughout the summer session. A learner's day might include a cabin meeting, a group speech or occupational therapy session, snack, arts and crafts, functional academics, social skills group, lunch, waterfront, activities of daily living and an adaptive camp-wide sporting event.

The beautiful waterfront provides the opportunity to provide adaptive aquatic experiences on a daily basis, including swimming, boating, fishing and social interactions. Staffing includes certified special education teachers, counselors, counselors in training (CIT), water safety instructors, licensed practical nurses supervised by a registered nurse, specialists, and a full-time camp director.

The Next Step Program

The program serves students with moderate to severe disabilities or developmental delays between the ages of 18 and 22. The program is community based in the town of Ipswich. The program seeks to improve the vocational and social skills required for independent living by offering functional academics, career exploration, job training, job placement, and activities of daily living.