

Academy-South Program Information

PROGRAM INFORMATION

Address: 1544 Brandy Parkway, Streamwood, IL 60107

Phone #: 847-755-6640

Program Administrator: Jodee Culberson

School hours: 9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Academy - South is to establish a positive and supportive learning community in which we strive to foster the consistent fulfillment of high academic and behavioral expectations. We will facilitate the growth of positive peer and adult relationships, appropriate social skills, and the acceptance of person responsibility for behaviors and choices. We expect that all members of the learning community will facilitate student transition into productive and constructive adulthood.

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

Academy – South’s emphasis includes these objectives:

- Maintain a safe learning environment that promotes and facilitates academic excellence.
- Help students develop positive adult and peer relationships.
- Promote positive behavior through the Positive Peer Culture program.
- Support students’ emotional needs to facilitate effective classroom learning.
- Provide support to parents to promote academic achievement and school attendance.

PROGRAM PHILOSOPHY

Academy - South utilizes the Positive Peer Culture model or “PPC.” Positive Peer Culture is an intrinsic treatment and behavior management system. PPC is not a point system. Most problem behaviors are dealt with in the classroom and progress is documented through a level system and group meetings. The goal of PPC is to increase positive behaviors and assist students in achieving their identified goals. The basic philosophy of PPC is based on 3 principles:

- Adolescents respond to peers more readily than to adults.
- By helping others, one learns to help oneself.
- People will not change negative behavior if they are comfortable with it-being challenged motivates change

PPC LEVEL SYSTEM

PPC utilizes a 4-level system. Group members are on Level 1 as soon as they have shared their “school story” with their group. After being on Level 2 for two weeks, students can request a level change from their group. All student groups meet during the last period of the school day to review their day and their progress. Students do not move down levels for poor behavior, but, they may be “off their level” if their behavior is not consistent with the requirements of their current level. Group bonus rewards are for students who are “on level.” On Level 3, the discussion of reintegration or returning to their mainstream school can begin. Level 4 behavior is expected for students before they can return to their home high school. Ultimately, reintegration decisions are determined through the IEP meeting process.

STAFF & PROGRAM SERVICES

Students are placed at Academy - South after determination is made during an IEP conference. Academy-South consists of 5 certified special education teachers and one additional vocational teacher, who is at the school part-time. Students move between classes during the school day dependent upon the classes they are taking. Teachers instruct in all areas of the academic curriculum. A typical classroom will have between 7-10 students. In addition to the certified teaching staff, 7 teacher assistants help students and teachers in the classroom, at P.E., and throughout the school in general. The clinical team consists of 2 school psychologists and access to a district wraparound social worker, school nurse, and police consultant. Staff and students are directed by Jodee Culberson, Program Administrator.