

## About DLC

DLC is an individualized multidisciplinary Regional Special Education Program serving students with developmental disabilities between the ages of 12 and 18. By using a functional academic and life-skills curriculum, the program's activities focus on supporting and encouraging meaningful student learning and independence across home, school, and community contexts.

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## What Parents Say

*"The kids do so much every week and we are very excited that our son gets to experience so many different scenarios while learning to handle himself in different situations. He feels very comfortable at school and feels he has lots of friends."*

*"I fully wish to thank all of the staff at DLC for their help and understanding and support that they have given myself, my son and the rest of my family. I am truly thankful."*

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## About CES

Cooperative Educational Services is a public educational authority pursuant to Connecticut General Statute 10-66 and is one of six Regional Educational Service Centers in the state. The agency is governed by a Representative Council made up of Board of Education members from the 16 Fairfield County school districts served by CES: Bridgeport, Darien, Easton/Redding/Region 9, Fairfield, Greenwich, Monroe, New Canaan, Norwalk, Ridgefield, Shelton, Stamford, Stratford, Trumbull, Weston, Westport, and Wilton.

The CES main office is located at 40 Lindeman Drive in Trumbull.

### Cooperative Educational Services

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## Developmental Learning Center

# DLC



A regional Special Education program for ages 12-18 serving students with developmental disabilities between the ages of 12 and 18



## Program Overview

- The Developmental Learning Center (DLC) is a regional special education program for children from 12-18 years of age who fall within the Autism Spectrum Disorder continuum or who exhibit severe language impairment.
- It is comprised of the middle school and high school components.
- DLC is a highly structured program for children with severe developmental disabilities who require an alternate special education placement.
- The Developmental Learning Center offers intensive positive behavioral support via use of structured environments and a low student-to-staff ratio, functional communication training, and functional academics.
- The program also offers many opportunities for community-based instructional vocational training and social/recreational experiences.

## The DLC Staff

The program staff includes a group of highly skilled special education teachers, teaching assistants, a clinical team consisting of social workers, nurses, speech pathologists, BCBA's, occupational and physical therapists as well as secretarial and administrative personnel.

## Program Highlights

- Staff-to-student ratio varies by groupings from 1:1 to 3:7
- Classroom Size: 3 to 7 students
- Highly structured, predictable and supportive teaching environment
- High use of visual aides and static visual cueing
- Functional curriculum
- Individualized programming
- Emphasis on language and communication development
- Focus on developing pragmatics (use of language)
- Transition services
- Utilization of Augmentative Communication Systems as needed
- Pre-vocational and community-based supported training opportunities
- Comprehensive Behavior Management System
- Frequent parent contact
- Social/Recreational Community Integration
- Physical Education, Art and Music
- Range of Related Services:
  - ❖ Speech-Language
  - ❖ Occupational Therapy
  - ❖ Physical Therapy
  - ❖ Nursing
  - ❖ Individual and group counseling

## Program Philosophy

- The program is designed to facilitate the transition from school to adult life. Applying the SCERTS and Developmental Therapy models and utilizing a functional curriculum, the activities in this program focus on assisting students to become as independent as possible in domestic, community and vocational settings.
- The development of personal management skills such as hygiene, grooming, and domestic living skills are fundamental to success in these environments and are an integral part of the DLC program. In addition, the development of appropriate social skills, behaviors and communication skills are a major focus in all activities.

## Transition Services

Students and their families work closely with teachers and the CES vocational transition specialist to design and implement individual transition plans. Transition planning begins when a student turns 15 and charts the path toward successful integration into adulthood. At age 18, students join the Transition Learning Component (TLC).

