

Chisago Lakes Education Center Pathway to Change Program

Providing strong academic programming with continuous social skills training in a safe environment.

What is the PTC Program?

Pathway to Change is a federal setting IV program that serves students with significant social and behavioral needs, whose least restrictive environment is a setting separate from the mainstream, general education building. We pride ourselves on creating a very structured, engaging environment with a high teacher to student ratio. Students in our program receive frequent, consistent feedback on their behavioral performance, creating numerous opportunities to learn the appropriate skills. The program is designed to be flexible; we meet students where they are at, and provide them with as much support as they need! As the student improves his/her behavioral skills, supports are faded to promote independence. The goal for all students within the PTC program is to build behavioral and academic skills, and to generalize these skills to support an eventual transition back to the general education setting.



Social and Emotional Learning

The Minnesota Department of Education has adopted learning standards for all students in the areas of **Self-Awareness**, **Self-Management**, **Social Awareness**, **Relationship Skills**, and **Responsible Decision Making**. PTC students receive instruction in all of these areas, as well as individualized instruction targeting each student's unique needs. Students are provided with small group instruction during daily homerooms, daily Personal Enrichment classes, and weekly groups taught by our School Psychologist. All school staff help students to practice using their skills by pre-teaching before challenging situations, providing frequent, detailed praise when a student is successful, and providing consistent corrective feedback when a student has difficulty.

PRIDE Expectations

Students demonstrate more expected behavior when the expectations are clearly and frequently communicated. Our school expectations align with the acronym "PRIDE" (Practice safety, Respect, Integrity, Dignity, and Excellence). There are posters and signs around the building that serve as reminders for how we can show our "PTC PRIDE" throughout the school and in the community. When our students demonstrate their "PRIDE" it helps promote social, emotional, and academic success and a positive school culture.

| | Pathway to Change Expectations CLASSROOM | |
|----------------------|---|---|
| P Practice Safety | Keep hands, feet, body, and objects to self | # stay safe #community |
| R Respect | Listen quietly and follow instructions Wait your turn Accept differences | #be nice # do good |
| Integrity | Include others Own your actions Appropriate voice tone & conversation Turn in your personal electronic device Appropriate use of technology | #worthyofattention #timetoshine |
| D Dignity | Use self-control strategies Raise your hand before speaking or leaving your seat | #be your best self # boss of stress |
| E Excellence | Do your best work & keep trying Be a positive role model | # work hard stay humble # never give up |

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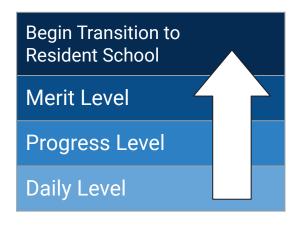
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Motivation System

Our students use individualized point sheets. When an expected behavior is observed, the student earns points and receives specific praise about what they did well and why it is important. When unexpected behavior is observed, students earn negative points and staff help them to practice an appropriate replacement behavior.

Students use their points to purchase from an incentive menu, which includes a school store, special drawings, and special events. Students can also purchase bonds, which are needed to progress through our level system. At each level of the system, supports are systematically faded as students gain independence. When students reach the merit level, IEP teams begin to gradually transition students back to their mainstream school.





The Options Room

Our program utilizes the referral process as another teaching opportunity. When students continue to display inappropriate behavior during the corrective teaching process they may be referred to our Options Room. When students receive a referral they will engage in a restorative discipline process that includes reflection upon how their choice affected others in the school community, problem-solving the situation that led to the referral, identifying better choices they can make in the future, and determining what needs to happen to repair the harm.

| DISTRESS | | | |
|----------------|---|--------------------|--|
| (2 | 5 | Out of Control | |
| SB | 4 | Over- whelmed | |
| | 3 | Struggling | |
| <u>=</u> | 2 | Uncom- fortable | |
| (3) | 1 | Calm | |

| VOICE VOLUME | | | |
|--------------|---|----------------------------------|--|
| | 5 | Screaming / Emergency Only | |
| | 4 | Outside Voice | |
| © | 3 | Inside / Classroom Voice | |
| (P) | 2 | Whisper / Soft Voice | |
| © | 1 | No Talking / Silent | |

The 5 Point Scale

The 5 Point Scale is a popular tool for teaching and communicating with students, and we use it program-wide at Pathway to Change. The numbers on the scale represent increasing intensity, and it can be used to represent emotional/cognitive experiences (e.g., anger), social behaviors (e.g., voice volume), and situations (e.g., size of the problem). Before beginning classes or activities, staff members check in with students using the stress scale, which prompts students to use their self-awareness skills and helps staff to provide proactive support.

Meet our team!

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