

# Exceptional Learners Programs



**2024 / 2025**

[www.wflboces.org](http://www.wflboces.org)



## Exceptional Learners

The Exceptional Learners Division serves students with disabilities whose instructional needs can't be met appropriately in their local districts. We do this by delivering various, high-quality programs designed to meet the needs of the learners that are referred to the Wayne-Finger Lakes BOCES through the Committee on Special Education.

**For more information, please contact:**

**Tyler Sweeting**

*Director of Exceptional Learners*

131 Drumlin Court

Newark, NY 14513

Work - (315) 332-7556

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*Referrals*

ALL REFERRALS

should be sent to:

Connor Delavak

Student Placement Coordinator

[Connor.Delavak@wflboces.org](mailto:Connor.Delavak@wflboces.org)



# Responding **TO DISTRICT NEEDS**

Beginning in the 24-25 school year, we will open new classrooms, throughout the school year, at our various sites as we are able. We will also be moving from a 6:1:1 model to an 8:1:3 model to better serve more students and to enhance supports provided to all learners in our classrooms. Most of our classrooms that are opened for the 24-25 school year will use the ratio of 8:1:3 (instead of 6:1:1).







## Social Skills Development (SSD) 6:1:1

Our three SSD Special Education Programs support students from kindergarten through 12th grade who struggle in their home schools due to unmet behavioral, emotional, or mental health needs. These full-day programs cater to a wide range of abilities, from mild developmental disabilities to gifted abilities, ensuring that every student receives the tailored support and instruction necessary to thrive academically, socially, and emotionally.

### Key Components:

- **Social Emotional Learning (SEL):**
  - Each program integrates SEL into daily activities, teaching students to recognize and manage their emotions, develop empathy, build positive relationships, and make responsible decisions. SEL lessons are customized to meet the developmental and individual needs of students across all grade levels, promoting self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, relationship skills, and responsible decision-making.
- **Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS):**
  - PBIS is a foundational element of our programs, providing a structured framework for proactive strategies to define, teach, and support appropriate student behaviors. By focusing on positive behaviors and reinforcing them consistently, we create safe and positive learning environments across all grade levels. Students are encouraged and rewarded for demonstrating positive social interactions and emotional regulation.
- **Individualized Crisis Management Plans:**
  - Understanding that each student has unique needs, we develop individualized crisis management plans to address specific behavioral and emotional challenges. These plans are crafted in collaboration with students, parents, and our team of professionals, ensuring that each student receives the necessary support during challenging times.
- **Access to Support Services:**
  - Each program provides students with access to a dedicated team of professionals, including social workers, school psychologists, and school counselors. These specialists work closely with students across all grade levels to offer counseling, crisis intervention, and additional support tailored to their individual needs. This team approach ensures that students have the resources they need to succeed socially and emotionally.
- **Instructional Approach:**
  - Our curriculum is designed to be multifaceted, enabling students to learn academic skills alongside social, emotional, and behavioral skills. This comprehensive approach ensures that students from kindergarten through 12th grade are well-prepared for success during and after their formal education ends.



## **Social Skills Development (SSD) 6:1:1 Continued**

Our Special Education Programs for Social Skills Development are committed to helping students achieve their full potential by nurturing their social and emotional well-being, fostering a positive school experience, and preparing them for future success. These programs are specifically designed to meet the diverse needs of students from kindergarten through 12th grade, ensuring that every student has the opportunity to succeed in school and beyond. Upon completion of our programs, students may earn various diploma types, including the Regents Diploma, Local Diploma, and CDOS Commencement Credential, based on their individual goals and achievements.

### **SSD Locations:**

#### **Red Jacket Education Center - grades K-6**

1506 Route 21  
Shortsville, NY 14548  
(585) 289-9649  
Principal - Chris Bennett

#### **Finger Lakes Secondary School - Grades 7-12**

4120 Baldwin Road  
Rushville, NY 14544  
(585) 554-6492  
Principal - Dan Healy

#### **Wayne Education Center - Grades 7-12**

4440 Ridge Road  
Williamson, NY 14589  
(315) 589-2400  
Principal - Dr. Jessica Newby



## Appropriate Social, Behavioral & Communication Skills (ASBCS) 6:1:1

A full-day program is meticulously designed to support students who struggle with pragmatic language and communication, social awareness and interaction, academic learning, and behavior management (ASBCS). This program caters to students with a wide range of abilities, from developmental disabilities to gifted abilities, ensuring personalized and effective support for each student.

### Key Components:

- **Comprehensive Therapies:**

- Occupational Therapy: Focuses on enhancing students' fine motor skills, sensory processing, and daily living skills.
- Physical Therapy: Aims to improve gross motor skills, coordination, and physical fitness.
- Speech and Language Therapy: Addresses challenges in pragmatic language, communication, and articulation, helping students improve their expressive and receptive language skills.
- Music Therapy: Utilizes music to engage students, enhance communication, and develop social skills.
- Access to Support Services: Students benefit from the expertise of school psychologists, counselors, and social workers, who provide additional emotional and behavioral support.

- **Sensory and Movement Integration:**

- Sensory Rooms: Equipped with specialized tools and activities to help students manage sensory processing issues and find a calming environment.
- Movement Breaks: Regularly scheduled breaks to allow students to engage in physical activity, helping them stay focused and regulated throughout the day.

- **Individualized Support:**

- Behavior Management: Tailored strategies and interventions to help students develop positive behavior patterns and cope with challenges.
- Social Awareness and Interaction: Programs and activities designed to enhance students' ability to understand social cues, build relationships, and interact effectively with peers.
- Pragmatic Language and Communication: Specific focus on helping students use language appropriately in social contexts, improving their ability to communicate their needs and understand others.

- **Academic Learning:**

- Multifaceted Instruction: Academic skills are taught alongside social, emotional, and behavioral skills, ensuring a comprehensive approach to student development.



Instruction is customized to meet the individual needs of each student, promoting success in both school and life.

Our Special Education Program for Appropriate Social, Behavioral, and Communicative Skills is dedicated to helping students achieve their full potential by nurturing their social, emotional, and academic development. Through a combination of tailored therapies, individualized support, and a structured, supportive environment, we prepare students for success both during and after their formal education. This program is designed to meet the diverse needs of students with autism, ensuring that every student can succeed and thrive. Upon completion of our program, students may earn various diploma types, including the Regents Diploma, Local Diploma, CDOS Commencement Credential, or Skills and Achievement Credential, based on their individual goals and achievements.

### **Midlakes Education Center - Grades K-12+**

1550 NY-488

Clifton Springs, NY 14432

(315) 548-6631

Principal - Heather Smith





## **Appropriate Social, Behavioral & Communication Skills (ASBCS) 6:1:2**

Introducing our new for 2024-2025 specialized 6:1:2 program for grades 3-5, located at Finger Lakes Elementary School, serving as an extension of the Midlakes Education Center. Tailored to support students on the autism spectrum, our full-day curriculum emphasizes social, behavioral, and communication skills development. Integrated therapies such as occupational, physical, speech, and music therapy complement expert support from psychologists, counselors, and social workers. With dedicated sensory rooms and movement areas, students have spaces for regulation and engagement. With a low student-to-staff ratio of six students to one teacher and two assistants, we ensure individualized attention, empowering every student to thrive academically, socially, and emotionally.

### **Key Components:**

#### **1. Tailored Support:**

- The program is specifically tailored to support students on the autism spectrum, addressing their unique social, behavioral, and communication needs.

#### **2. Comprehensive Curriculum:**

- Our full-day curriculum places a strong emphasis on the development of social, behavioral, and communication skills, providing students with essential tools for success in and out of the classroom.

#### **3. Individualized Therapies:**

- Therapies are tailored to each student based on comprehensive evaluations and Individualized Education Program (IEP) information, ensuring that interventions are personalized to address specific needs and goals.

#### **4. Expert Support Network:**

- Expert support from psychologists, counselors, social workers, and specialized therapists, including occupational, physical, speech, and music therapists, is readily available to provide additional assistance and guidance to students as needed.

#### **5. Purposeful Spaces:**

- Dedicated sensory rooms and movement areas are incorporated into the program's environment to offer students opportunities for regulation and engagement, enhancing their overall learning experience.

#### **6. Low Student-to-Staff Ratio:**

- With a low student-to-staff ratio of six students to one teacher and two assistants, we ensure individualized attention and support for each student, fostering their academic, social, and emotional growth.





# Finger Lakes Elementary School Extension of Midlakes Education Center 6:1:2 - Grades 3-5

2705 Route 245

Stanley, NY 14561

Principal - Heather Smith





## **Functional Skills Development (FSD) 12:1:3:1**

Our Special Education Program for Functional Skills Development (FSD) is dedicated to supporting students with multiple disabilities within the severe to profound range of developmental disabilities. These students require moderate to maximum support for management needs, with many facing medical concerns or severe physical disabilities. Our program offers a full-day curriculum tailored to meet the unique needs of each student, emphasizing functional self-care, sensory and environmental awareness experiences, physical and muscular development, communication, and pre-vocational skills.

### **Key Components:**

#### **1. Tailored Curriculum:**

- Our program offers a full-day curriculum specifically designed to meet the unique needs of students with multiple disabilities within the severe to profound range. The curriculum emphasizes functional self-care, sensory and environmental awareness experiences, physical and muscular development, communication, and pre-vocational skills.

#### **2. Individualized Instruction:**

- With a focus on individualized instruction, our team of educators, therapists, and support staff collaborate to create personalized learning plans for each student. This approach ensures that every student receives the support and interventions they need to succeed.

#### **3. Nurturing Environment:**

- We strive to create a nurturing and inclusive environment where every student feels supported and valued. Our team works to foster a sense of belonging and acceptance, promoting positive social and emotional development.

#### **4. Hands-On Learning:**

- Through hands-on learning experiences, students engage in meaningful activities that promote skill development and independence. These experiences provide opportunities for students to apply their learning in real-life contexts.

#### **5. Skills Development:**

- Our program focuses on empowering students to develop the skills necessary for independent living and success beyond the classroom. This includes functional self-care skills, communication skills, and pre-vocational skills.

With a focus on individualized instruction, our team of educators, therapists, and support staff work collaboratively to create a nurturing and inclusive environment where every student can thrive. Through hands-on learning experiences and personalized interventions, we aim to empower students to develop the skills necessary for independent living and success beyond the classroom. Our program recognizes and celebrates the diverse abilities of each student, fostering a sense of belonging and achievement for all. Upon completion of our program, students may earn a Skills and Achievement Credential, acknowledging their accomplishments and preparing them for their future endeavors.





## Newark Education Center - Grades K-12

439 West Maple Avenue

Newark, NY 14513

(315) 332-3328

Principal - Elise Comella





## **Communication and Physical Mobility Development (CPMD) 6:1:1**

A full-day Special Education Program for Communication and Physical Mobility Development (CPMD) is specifically designed to meet the unique needs of students with physical/orthopedic challenges and/or other health impairments. Catering to students with mild to significant developmental disabilities, our program places a strong emphasis on academic growth, mobility enhancement, and communication development, including the utilization of augmentative and assistive technology.

Students in our program may require varying degrees of physical assistance and intervention to meet their management needs. Our dedicated team of educators, therapists, and support staff work collaboratively to provide personalized support and interventions tailored to each student's individual needs.

Through a comprehensive and inclusive curriculum, students engage in activities that promote academic achievement, physical mobility, and communication skills. We integrate augmentative and assistive technology to enhance communication abilities, ensuring that every student has the tools and resources necessary to express themselves effectively.

In addition to academic and communication-focused activities, our program emphasizes physical mobility development. Students participate in exercises and activities aimed at improving gross and fine motor skills, enhancing mobility, and promoting overall physical well-being.

Our goal is to create a supportive and nurturing environment where students can thrive academically, socially, and physically. By addressing the unique needs of each student and providing comprehensive support, we empower students to reach their full potential and succeed in all areas of life. Upon completion of our program, students can earn a CDOS Commencement Credential or a Skills and Achievement Credential, acknowledging their accomplishments and preparing them for their future endeavors.

### **Newark Education Center - Grades K-12+**

439 West maple Avenue

Newark, NY 14513

(315) 332-3328

Principal - Elise Comella





## **Academic, Communication and Career Development (ACCD) 12:1:1**

A full-day Special Education Program for Academic, Communication, and Career Development (ACCD) is tailored to meet the needs of students with speech and language delays. Serving students with mild to moderate developmental disabilities, our program places a strong emphasis on academic growth, pragmatic language development, and social skills enhancement.

With a dedicated team of educators, speech-language pathologists, and support staff, we provide personalized support and interventions to address the unique needs of each student. Our comprehensive curriculum integrates academic instruction with targeted communication and social skills development.

Students engage in various activities designed to promote academic achievement while targeting speech and language goals. Through structured lessons and hands-on learning experiences, students build foundational skills in reading, writing, math, and other core subjects.

In addition to academic instruction, our program focuses on pragmatic language development and social skills enhancement. Students participate in activities aimed at improving communication effectiveness, understanding social cues, and fostering positive peer interactions.

Furthermore, our program incorporates career development opportunities to prepare students for future success beyond the classroom. Through vocational exploration, job readiness training, and hands-on experiences, students gain valuable skills and knowledge to pursue their career goals.

Our goal is to create a supportive and inclusive environment where students can thrive academically, socially, and professionally. By providing comprehensive support and targeted interventions, we empower students to reach their full potential and achieve success in all areas of life. Upon completion of our program, students can earn various diploma types, including the Regents Diploma, Local Diploma, CDOS Commencement Credential, and Skills and Achievement Credential, based on their individual goals and achievements.

### **Newark Education Center - Grades K-12+**

439 West Maple Avenue

Newark, NY 14513

(315) 332-3328

Principal - Elise Comella



## **Career Creations/Transition Class (CC) 12:1:1**

Career Creations/Transition Class (CC) is a specialized program tailored to meet the unique needs of students, ages 16-22, with mild to moderate cognitive abilities. Designed for students who are eligible to attend school until the age of 22 and have completed four years of high school, CC provides a supportive and inclusive learning environment where students can continue to develop essential skills for independent living and successful transition to adulthood.

With a student-to-staff ratio of 15:1:1, our program offers personalized attention and support to ensure that each student receives the guidance they need to succeed. Instruction is provided in the four core content areas, including English Language Arts, mathematics, science, and social studies, with a focus on functional and practical applications.

A key component of our CC program is the development of employment skills. Through hands-on training, job shadowing opportunities, and community-based internships, students gain valuable experience and confidence in their ability to enter the workforce. Our dedicated team of educators and transition specialists work closely with students to identify their career interests and goals, providing guidance and support every step of the way.

In addition to employment skills, our program emphasizes the development of social, self-care, and communication skills. Through targeted instruction and real-world experiences, students learn to navigate social interactions, take care of their personal needs, and effectively communicate with others.

Furthermore, our CC program is committed to supporting students in their transition to adulthood. Transition goals are established collaboratively with students, families, and support teams, with a focus on post-secondary education, vocational training, independent living, and community integration.

At CC, we believe in the potential of every student to achieve their goals and lead fulfilling lives. Through personalized instruction, hands-on learning experiences, and comprehensive transition support, we empower students to reach their full potential and transition successfully to adulthood. Upon completion of our program, students can earn various diploma types, including the Regents Diploma, Local Diploma, CDOS Commencement Credential, and Skills and Achievement Credential, based on their individual goals and achievements.

### **Career Creation Extension of Newark Education Center - Grade 10-12+**

1000 Technology Pkwy

Newark, NY 14513

(315) 332-3328

Principal - Elise Comella



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Board of Cooperative Educational Services

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