



COMPASS Program description

The COMPASS Program is a special education program that serves students grades K-12 with a broad spectrum of learning and communication needs who require a moderate to high level of individualization and support. A student's primary disability may include Autism Spectrum Disorders or moderate/significant delays with academic, behavioral, communication, social and sensory needs.

The COMPASS Program provides a multi-disciplinary approach to academic instruction, principles of applied behavioral analysis, social skills training, behavioral intervention, and/or related services. The program may also have embedded life skills groups, social skills groups, gross motor groups, and sensory related accommodations/schedules. Reverse inclusion with peer partners is also an important component of the program's social skills training.

Students have opportunities for the development of functional and adaptive skills to include recreation opportunities under the Adaptive Physical Education umbrella, as well as supported inclusive experiences in the general education setting. Students spend an *individualized* amount of time within the general education setting which may include lunch, recess, special areas or academic time as deemed appropriate. Adapted special areas/unified arts are available at the elementary and middle school level based on individual student needs and team conversation. Unified Physical Education is available at the high school level.

Teaching approaches include: both individualized and small group instruction, incidental and naturalistic instruction, direct and explicit instruction, visual supports, total communication approaches, individualized schedules, multisensory learning, and structured classroom environments and routines.

Collaboration and consultation time with staff is an important component of the COMPASS program to ensure individualized supports are implemented across environments.

At Quinn, there are six classrooms serving grades K through 5

At DMS, there are two classrooms serving grades 6 through 8

At DHS, there are two classrooms serving grades 9 through 12