Exceptional Education Programs

Alternative Education • Special Education

Unique Opportunities. Exceptional Results.
About Exceptional Education

Exceptional Education Programs and Services at Erie 1 BOCES partners with local school districts to provide student support. The degree of support required for students with exceptional needs can often be cost prohibitive for one school district to tackle completely on its own. At Erie 1 BOCES we pool the resources of multiple school districts to provide full service, quality programing and then share the expense. The result, students succeed and public school graduation rates rise.

From emotional and social challenges to mental and physical impairments, we address a variety of student needs that fall outside the scope of a traditional school setting. Our services mainly come from two departments, Alternative Education and Special Education. However, it is important to note that we call on the expertise of various divisions within the organization to best meet the programing needs of our students.
Alternative Education
Alternative Learning Program

The smaller school setting provides students with the opportunity to recover high school course credits with flexible scheduling to help students graduate on time. The structured environment allows students to develop habits and traits that prepare them for success inside and outside the classroom. Small class sizes afford staff and students to develop mentoring and supporting relationships.

Program Highlights
- Small class sizes
- Individualized counseling services
- Special education consultant teachers
- Full-time school resource office
- "At-risk" experienced staff
- Career and technical education (CTE) exploration and elective courses available
- Parenting program
- Long-term suspension program

Students
- Grades 9-12
- May be under credited
- Unsuccessful in traditional school setting

Program Goals
- Regents diploma from the home school district
- Develop career and social skills
- Option to return to their home school district

“I’m actually learning here and the work study component has helped me get a head start...”

- Anakin Siegal, Senior in ALP
When students are suspended from traditional school environments we’re here to ensure that their opportunity to learn continues. Short term and long term suspension placements are available for middle and high school students. At Erie 1 BOCES we offer classroom instruction in a small setting and provide additional social support to assist with student transitions back to their home schools.

Program Highlights
- Small class sizes
- Individualized attention
- At risk experienced staff
- Social worker on-site

Students
- Grades 6-12
- Short-term suspension (five days or less)
- Long-term suspension (six days or more)

Academics
- Content teachers provide push in services
- Special education consultant teachers
- Technology access including laptops, iPads and SMART Boards
- Physical education provided to long-term suspension students

Locations:
- Erie 1 BOCES Learning Center
- Northtowns Academy

“Tell me and I forget, teach me and I may remember, involve me and I learn.”
- Benjamin Franklin
Twilight

Twilight is a unique opportunity that caters to students outside of traditional school hours. Available at the Kenton Career and Tech Center, Twilight offers after school education options for Regents diploma-bound students.

Twilight is appropriate for students who may be under-credited or for those who need an alternative placement. This structure provides a pathway to graduation and career readiness for 10th, 11th, and 12th grade students.

Program Highlights
• Small class sizes
• Individualized attention
• At risk experienced staff
• Special education liaison teachers
• Career planning
• School resource officer
• School counselor

Whole Day Option (12:30 – 6:15 p.m.)
• Career and technical education
• Dinner
• Academics

Half Day Option (2:45 – 6:15 p.m.)
• Dinner
• Academics

Academics
• Four period model
• P.E., health and art available
• LOTE available only through credit recovery
• Regents courses
• Credit recovery available (GradPoint)

Students
• Enrollment is available throughout the school year.
• District transportation is preferred, but NFTA bus tokens will be provided when not available. Students may also self-transport.

Contact info:
Mike Capuana, Director
Career & Technical Education
(716) 821-7642
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Special Education
The Center-Based Middle School Program at Northtowns provides opportunities for students needing a middle school curriculum whose severe behavior management needs prevent them from being successful in a regular public school setting.

**Program Highlights**
- Two 6:1:1 classrooms
- Self-contained setting with reduced transitions between classes
- Alternative learning center with extra staff support
- On-site social worker
- Daily counseling groups
- Individual counseling
- Crisis counseling as needed
- Increased supervision
- Non-violent Physical Crisis Intervention (CPI) and trained staff
- Student focused discipline
- Comprehensive behavior management system
- Environment rich with positive reinforcement and earned rewards
- Restorative practices implemented

**Students**
- In grades 6 through 8
- Needing a 6:1:1 placement
- Were unsuccessful in traditional school settings

**Program Goals**
- Increase appropriate socialization
- Increase student attendance
- Decrease discipline referrals and suspensions
- Eventual return to less restrictive environment

“Without a sense of caring, there can be no sense of community.”

– Anthony J. D’Angelo, Author
The College and Career Ready Academy at Northtowns provides an alternate school placement for students requiring a more restrictive special education setting while working towards their Regents diploma.

**Program Highlights**
- Four 6:1:1 classrooms
- Self-contained setting with reduced transitions between classes
- Alternative learning center with aide support
- Regents level coursework
- Homeroom teacher as case manager
- On-site Career Technology Education (CTE) program
- On-site full time social worker
- On-site school resource officer
- Student focused discipline
- Comprehensive behavior management system
- Therapeutic Crisis Intervention trained staff

**Students**
- In grades 9 through 12
- Needing a 6:1:1 placement
- Were not successful in traditional high school settings

**Program Goals**
- Increase student interest in post high school goals
- Increase student attendance
- Increase graduation rates
- Increase successful transition to job or college placement
- Decrease discipline referrals and suspensions
- Decrease drop-out rates

“I’m definitely learning new things every day.”

– Kara Kosak, Sophomore
The Creating Opportunities and Conquering Hurdles (COACH) program provides opportunities for students with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) who require a well-defined and highly structured program in a public school setting.

**Program Highlights**
- Two 6:1:1 classrooms
- Self-contained setting with opportunities for integration
- Daily home-school communication (e.g., notebook)
- Monthly parent meetings
- Emphasis on communication
- Use of picture schedules
- Basic academic skills and life skills
- Systematic instruction
- Social stories to teach and reinforce social skills
- Social skills groups
- Sensory activities
- Individual visual behavior management plans
- Data collection
- ASD consultation
- Specialized training for staff

**Students**
- In grades K through 5
- Needing a 6:1:1 placement
- Moderate to severe cognitive delays
- Students with ASD

**Program Goals**
- Increased student opportunities for integration into general education
- Increased social engagements inside and outside of the classroom
- Increased social communication
- Decreased maladaptive behaviors
- Decreased discipline referrals

“What makes a good coach? Complete dedication.”

– George Halas, Founder of the Chicago Bears
The E1B location at West Seneca West Elementary provides students grades K-5 with disabilities the opportunity to benefit from a structured program. The smaller class sizes benefit students with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), as well as specialized social and emotional needs.

Program Highlights
- Grades K-5
- Located in the West Seneca Central School District
- Smaller class sizes
- Increased opportunities for integration
- Strong focus on students with autism
- Team approach with teachers and related service providers
- Crisis counseling as needed
- On site BOCES supervisor
- Positive reinforcement and earned rewards

Students
- For students in grades K-5
- For students with disabilities ranging from autistic to social and emotional needs
- Placements in 6:1:1, 8:1:1, and 12:1:1 available

Program Goals
- Increased student opportunities for integration into general education
- Increased social engagements outside of the classroom
- Decreased discipline referrals
- Increased students independence and student focused instruction

“Education is the key to unlock the golden door of freedom.”
- George Washington Carver, Inventor
E1B Learning Center

The E1B Learning Center provides a highly structured educational environment for middle and high school students with moderate to severe disabilities in need of intense behavioral interventions.

Program Highlights
- One 6:1:1 middle school classroom and three 6:1:1 high school classes
- Daily instruction in ELA, math, science and social studies
- Emphasis on vocational skills training, as well as, activities of daily living
- Rotating class schedule throughout the day for academic and curriculum extension areas
- Student centered instruction provided in small teacher-student group settings
- Basic Employment Skills Training (B.E.S.T.) program provides hands on instruction in an on-site work setting
- Minimized distractions and a consistent and predictable schedule within the school environment
- ASD consultation
- Specialized training for staff (CPI)

Students
- In middle school and high school
- Needing a 6:1:1 placement
- Moderate to severe cognitive delays
- Needing a highly structured environment

Program Goals
- Increased student independence in all school and work related activities
- Increased social engagements inside and outside of the classroom
- Increased student self regulation and decreased maladaptive behaviors
- Decreased discipline referrals

“The beautiful thing about learning is that no one can take it away from you.”

–B.B. King, Singer
Extended School Year

Each local district’s Committee on Special Education (CSE) determines a student’s eligibility to attend summer programs. Students who would experience significant regression over the summer from not being enrolled in an educational program are eligible to participate in this instructional 30-day program.

Program Highlights
• Thirty-day instructional program
• Six consecutive weeks
• Related services included in the instructional school day
• Implementation of student’s IEP goals
• Student progress reported at end of program
• Field trips and school-wide events
• Work study opportunities

Students
• Ages 5-21

Program Goal
• Ward off significant regression

“Change is inevitable. Change is constant.”
– Benjamin Disraeli, Writer
Erie 1 BOCES offers special education classrooms in three different versions, 6:1:1, 8:1:1, and 12:1:1. Each of these options are available at either the Primary, Intermediate, or Secondary Levels. Classes can concentrate in either academic, life skills, or functional curriculums, or a combination of the three, depending on student needs. Services are provided in both center-based and district based locations.

6:1:1 Program Highlights
• 1 Teacher: 6 Students + 1 Paraprofessional
• Smaller class size
• Individualized interactions and interventions
• Self-contained setting with reduced transitioning
• Individual and Group counseling
• Heightened supervision
• Crisis counseling as needed
• Crisis Prevention Institute trained staff
• Student focused discipline
• Comprehensive behavior management system
• Learning environment rich with positive reinforcement and earned rewards

8:1:1 Program Highlights
• 1 Teacher: 8 Students + 1 Paraprofessional
• Smaller class size
• Self-contained setting with reduced transitioning between classes
• Individualized interactions and interventions
• Additional adult support
• Comprehensive behavior management system
• Crisis counseling as needed
• Crisis Prevention Institute trained staff
• Positive reinforcement and earned rewards
• Consistent expectations

12:1:1 Program Highlights
• 1 Teacher: 12 students + 1 paraprofessional
• Self-contained setting
• Additional adult support
• Specialized/specially designed instruction
• Comprehensive behavior management system
• Crisis counseling as needed
• Crisis Prevention Institute trained staff
• Positive reinforcement and earned rewards
• Consistent expectations
The Work Readiness Education Program provides an educational environment for secondary age students seeking employment training and work exploration with an outcome of receiving a Skills and Achievement Credential.

**Program Highlights**
- Located at Maryvale High School
- Secondary classes focusing on entry level skills and exit preparedness training.
- Academic skills instruction in four core content areas.
- Work readiness instruction at all levels.
- Access to state of the art classroom technology.

**Entry Level Training**
- Career exploration
- In-school and enclave work opportunities
- Virtual internships

**Exit Preparedness Training**
- Development of an employability profile
- Individualized work experiences
- Community work internships
- Job coach support

**Students**
- High school age
- Eligible for the NYSAA and Skills Credential upon exit
- Work readiness class sizes including: 12:1:1, 8:1:1, 6:1:1

**Program Goals**
- Increased student employability skills
- Increase independence in post secondary work and residential environments
- Linkage to post secondary work environments and lifelong supports
- Achievement of skills needed to receive a Skills Credential

“The best preparation for good work tomorrow is to do good work today.”
– Elbert Hubbard, Writer
Project SEARCH offers a school-to-work program for students with disabilities who are in their last year of high school.

**Program Highlights**
- Internship program located in a community business
- On-site job rotations
- Employability skills classes offered daily
- Support of a job coach, special education teacher and department supervisor
- Lessons are based on daily living skills such as nutrition and finances
- Individualized job development and placement
- Western New York Collaborative
- Earn a Skills and Achievement Credential

**Students**
- Age 18 to 21 years old
- Eligible for ACESS-VR and OPWDD services
- Completion of all academic requirements for graduation
- One year placement

**Program Goals**
- Increase employability skills
- Increase independence at a work site
- Job placement in a competitive work environment

“I am happy that I will be getting a paycheck…”

– Robert Snyder, 2014 Graduate
Related Services are recommended by the Committee on Special Education to meet the specific needs of a student with a disability. One or more of these services, including the frequency and duration of the services must be specified on the IEP to initiate the service. Each related service has a unique specialization to support the classroom teacher in meeting the demands of the curriculum and the New York State Common Core Learning Standards.

**Speech and Language Therapy**
- Certified/licensed speech therapists
- Communication disorders, impaired articulation or voice disorders
- Medicaid coordinator to support speech and language pathologists
- Collaboration with educational team
- Provide assistive devices to enhance language
- Assist with technology to meet student needs

**Physical Therapy**
- Therapy provides exercise/treatments
- Minimize effects of developmental defects, injuries, or diseases
- Assist students to achieve maximum physical/mental independence

**Occupational Therapy**
- Develop/maintain sensory motor adaptive skills
- Allow students to achieve maximum physical and mental functioning

**Itinerant Hearing Services**
- Certified teacher of deaf and hearing impaired
- Audiologists conduct audiological evaluations
- Educational interpreters provide sign language

**Itinerant Vision Services**
- Certified teacher of blind and visually impaired
- Braille instruction, tutorial assistances
- Program coordination and testing accommodations
- Supported by vision aide, enlarges materials and creates read outs in braille

**Counseling**
- Certified public school social workers
- Assess and treat students that demonstrate emotional/behavioral problems
- Assist student in making positive and healthy adjustments to school

“I can’t change the direction of the wind, but I can adjust my sails to always reach my destination.”

—Jimmy Dean, Entrepreneur
The WNYCPC Day Treatment Program provides community-based mental health services integrated within a small school environment.

Program Highlights
- Located in Amherst, New York
- High school and middle school classes
- Small class size (6 students or less)
- Clinical evaluations provided
- Individual, family and group therapies as indicated
- Crisis services available
- On-site program coordinator
- On-site clinical professionals - psychiatry, psychology, nursing, and social work
- Family involvement is required
- Physical education and art classes provided
- Well trained teachers and support staff

Students
- For students with disabilities requiring mental health support and services
- Requiring more services than can be provided by the home district
- In grades 6 through 12
- Referred from in-patient units or from home district

Program Goals
- Students to meet goals established within their individualized treatment plan
- Return students to less restrictive settings
- Decrease student absences

“Thank you for being so kind to my child.”
– Parent
Locations

**Erie 1 BOCES Learning Center**
675 Potters Road
West Seneca, NY 14224
(716) 821-7025
C. Katie Storey, Principal
(716) 821-7349
cstorey@e1b.org
Matthew Raines, Assistant Principal
Satellite Locations and Erie County Youth Detention Center
mraines@e1b.org

**Maryvale Work Readiness Center**
1050 Maryvale Drive
Cheektowaga, NY 14225
(716) 821-7098
Gina Dailey, Principal
(716) 821-7026
gdailey@e1b.org

**Northtowns Academy**
333 Dexter Terrace
Tonawanda, NY 14150
(716) 961-4040
Laura Chisolm, Principal
(716) 961-4041
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Michael Hiller, Assistant Principal
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**E1B at West Seneca West Elementary**
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West Seneca, NY 14224
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Erie 1 BOCES provides equal opportunity for students and does not discriminate against any student enrolled in (or any candidate for admission to) its programs and activities on the basis of actual or perceived race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age. Further, Erie 1 BOCES does not discriminate on the basis of weight, ethnic group, religion, religious practice, sexual orientation, gender, or any other basis prohibited by state or federal non-discrimination laws, and provides equal access to its facilities to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. Inquiries regarding Erie 1 BOCES' non-discrimination policies and grievance procedures should be directed to: mjason@e1b.org, or to the: Executive Director of Instructional Services (Civil Rights Compliance Officer), 355 Harlem Road, West Seneca, NY 14224, 716-821-7099. More details are available at www.e1b.org/footerpages/nondiscrimination.