

Genesis & Alternative Schools
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Operated by the Clermont County Educational Service Center (CCESC)

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The Genesis School and the Alternative School are operated by the Clermont County Educational Service Center (CCESC) and serve nine school districts in Clermont County. Teachers, paraprofessionals, mental health service providers (community service provider or CSP) and related service providers work in teams to provide each student a program designed to address behavioral and emotional needs as well as increase academic performance. An onsite school resource officer (SRO) assists in maintaining a safe and orderly learning climate. The Genesis School and the Alternative School are two separate programs housed in the same building.

THE GENESIS SCHOOL

The Genesis School is a public separate school designed to meet the needs of students, kindergarten (K) through grade twelve (12), in special education who have been identified as having behavioral/emotional disabilities. Students enrolled in the Genesis School are eligible for special education services under the Individuals with Disabilities in Education Improvement Act (IDEIA) and have an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) that guides services.

In addition to intense instruction in social and emotional learning and academics, students enrolled in the Genesis School also receive mental health supports in the form of ongoing case management by a CSP.

The Genesis School program is designed to allow students to receive direct instruction in, then practice, the skills needed to participate successfully in their home district programs. Many of the unstructured components of a typical school program (frequent class changes, unsupervised hallway and restroom breaks) have been removed at the Genesis School in order to keep students safe and allow for student success.

THE ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL

The Alternative School is an alternative educational setting for regular education students to attend in lieu of suspension or expulsion from their home districts. Serving students grades seven (7) through twelve (12), the Alternative School is designed to meet the individual behavioral and academic needs of students requiring an alternative learning environment.

Students enrolled in the Alternative School receive intense instruction in academics as well as social and emotional learning. Students also receive mental health supports in the form of ongoing case management by a CSP.

The Alternative School program allows students to make academic progress while also practicing the behavioral skills needed to participate in their home district programs successfully.

ACADEMIC INSTRUCTION

Students in both the Genesis School and Alternative School, grades K-12, receive academic instruction in coursework aligned to the Ohio Academic Content Standards in four core subject areas, English Language Arts (includes Reading and Writing), Mathematics, Social Studies, and Science.

Home districts are frequently and regularly issued student academic progress updates from the Genesis and Alternative School. Home districts determine grade promotion, retention, and/or issue credit based on these updates. The Genesis School and Alternative School does not make decisions around grade promotion, retention, or issue of credit.

SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING

In addition to academic instruction, students in the Genesis School and Alternative School receive direct instruction in social and emotional learning focused around the following five competencies:

1. *Self-awareness*: the ability to accurately assess one's feelings, interests, values and strengths.
2. *Self-management*: the ability to regulate one's emotions to handle stress, control impulses, overcome obstacles, and express emotions appropriately.
3. *Social-awareness*: the ability to take the perspective of and empathize with others.
4. *Relationship skills*: the ability to resist inappropriate social pressure and prevent, manage and resolve interpersonal conflict, the ability to seek help when needed.
5. *Responsible decision-making*: the ability to make decisions based on safety, ethics, appropriate social norms, respect for others, and likely consequences of various actions.

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

The mental health component of the Genesis School and Alternative School program allows students to receive services from Child Focus, Inc. staff employed by the Genesis School and Alternative School. Community service providers (CSP) provide ongoing case management and collaborate with teachers in providing both group and individual sessions.