

SCHNEE LEARNING CENTER EDUCATIONAL PLAN 2019-2020

Academic Program: The educational program is developed with the goal of improved student outcomes and the educational success of students. The Schnee Learning Center addresses the needs of students in grades 9-12. The school delivers a comprehensive educational program that is aligned to Ohio's Learning Standards, as well as national standards, for at-risk students in grades 9-12 provides a continuum of comprehensive strategies to reduce truancy, absenteeism, disruptive behavior, dropouts, and juvenile crime.

The Schnee Learning Center is nonsectarian in its programs, admission policies, employment practices, and all other operations. It is operated under a contract with the Sponsor (Office of School Sponsorship at the Ohio Department of Education) to provide an innovative and cost-effective solution to the special problems of special needs students, students removed from school for disciplinary reasons, students needing individualized courses which are not available locally, and other students, including previously home-schooled students, who are not currently enrolled in any public school and who are not receiving a meaningful, comprehensive and standards-based educational program. The Center uses the services of the Sponsor to assist with overall operations. The Schnee Learning Center served 85 students during fiscal year 2019. The school seeks to provide a safe and positive environment where diverse at-risk students are empowered to make life choices that positively impact their futures while they gain academic skills that lead to obtaining an Ohio High School Diploma. Stakeholder and community communication and engagement is sought and valued. Utilizing proven evidence-based strategies and purposeful decision-making, the staff of Schnee Learning Center considers the unique abilities and needs of each partner student when offering varied opportunities for individual academic growth and social-emotional skill and character development. Schnee Learning Center aims to provide meaningful professional development experiences to staff that benefit both the staff members and the students while remaining fiscally responsible.

At Schnee, family involvement is integral to the operation of the school. The school staffs recognize the need for families/caregivers to be aware and actively involved and supportive of each student's total high school experience.

The Schnee Learning Center seeks to help students to achieve academic and personal successes by:

1. Providing a physically and emotionally safe learning environment.
2. Assessing the distinct needs of each at-risk high school student.
3. Creating and fostering open lines of communication between the school and home.
4. Promoting and fostering individual successes through providing a unique and differentiated educational plan for each student that provides for fully-integrated support services linked to available community resources.
5. Focusing on individual student successes in the school, the home, and the community by providing prevention, interventions and supports, and transition services.

Utilizing this philosophy and framework, the educational team is responsible for designing, building, and enhancing the instructional program and for seeking out alternatives to continuously address the diversity and individual needs and goals of each student. Schnee Learning Center students require

differentiation and consistency of the delivery of both academic and socio-emotional interventions and supports.

At the time of enrollment, the students are at least 16 years old, one grade level behind their cohort age group, or experience crises that significantly interfere with their academic progress, preventing them from continuing traditional educational programs. Schnee Learning Center provides learning opportunities to a minimum of 50 students for a minimum of 920 hours per school year.

The school's guidance department assures a Student Success Plan is developed with the student that specifies the student's path to successfully meeting Ohio graduation requirements, matriculation to a two-year degree program, acquiring a business and industry credential, entering the military or apprenticeship, or directly entering the workforce. The school's program provides counseling and support for the student relative to the student's career plan during the remainder of the student's high school experience.

Focus of the Curriculum: Instructional Program

The Schnee Learning Center instructional program is based upon the premise that at-risk high school students have different needs, learn at different rates, and have diverse learning styles which are not being met by traditional schooling. These issues may cause the at-risk students to be unsuccessful. The philosophy of the Schnee Learning Center is that everyone, including students who have dropped out of school, or who are considering dropping out, deserves a quality education that meets his/her individual needs. The Schnee Learning Center provides a second opportunity for success. The school is designed to intervene with at-risk students by giving them another chance at obtaining a quality education by providing supports for their academic and social-emotional needs. Each student is provided an individualized program that may include self-paced online software (Edmentum Plato), and/or face-to-face core content instruction supplemented with reading and writing across-the-curriculum strategies (Reading Apprenticeship) and Newsela, a differentiating (to student reading levels) non-fiction online curriculum source.

Delivery methods for curriculum and instruction: Each student is provided an individualized program that may include self-paced online software programs, and/or face-to-face instructional delivery methods (teacher direct-instruction) that lead to earning an Ohio high school diploma. The goal of the instructional program is to enable a student to recover credits and to work through the program at an individual pace. Effectiveness is currently measured by successful passage of high school courses and required Ohio end-of-course exams, with progress also being measured by the ACT test (for 11th-grade students) and student academic growth measured by standardized sponsor-required testing. Each student is assessed by the school counselor upon enrolling in the school at any time of year. The curricula includes directly, and indirectly, social-emotional skills instruction and provides interventions and supports that enhance the probability of academic, life, and work-skill successes.

Student-learning opportunities include academics, counseling, life and work-skills training, social-emotional learning, and workplace training opportunities. Flexible scheduling allows for employment, community volunteer activities, and allows for parent/guardian scheduling needs. Identified special needs students are served in an inclusive regular classroom setting, in the least-restrictive environment, and supported by a licensed Intervention Specialist who meets licensure requirements in all core subject areas.

A licensed Title 1 Aide also provides supports to Schnee Learning Center students based upon identified needs.

Professional development focused on improving implementation of curriculum and instructional program: The Schnee Learning Center primarily relies on the Ohio Office of School Sponsorship, State Support Team 8, and the Summit County Educational Service Center for the majority of the staffs' professional development. All offer quality Ohio State Learning Standards and Ohio Improvement Process aligned opportunities, as well as individual content-area and special needs professional development. SLC also hosts on-site professional development, determined by staff need surveys and state requirements. In addition, several instructional staff members completed Levels 1 and 2 evidence-based "Reading Apprenticeship" two- course online program to facilitate our efforts in implementing a strong literacy-across-the-curriculum initiative. Some professional development completed recently include: Data interpretation and using data to inform instruction, PBIS, trauma-informed, school safety, School Improvement Internal Facilitators, Depth of Knowledge, and specialized offerings in Ohio Learning Standards aligned ELA, math, science, and social studies, etc. Future PD will focus on Google Classroom virtual instruction and increasing teachers online teaching skills based on needs identified by the recent COVID-19 Ohio schools mandatory shutdown. SLC teachers will also receive PD in dyslexia, dysgraphia, and dyscalculia, as a next step in the differentiation of curriculum.