Mission Statement
The mission of the ETC program is to provide a nurturing environment which maintains high academic and behavior expectations and encourages each individual to do his/her best. Within this structured environment, education and behavior management are vehicles by which we provide the students with a wide variety of experiences designed to increase academic skills and promote the development of appropriate social behaviors. Both are necessary for successful participation in society.

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02/12
Madison County Educational Therapy Center
A Therapeutic and Academic Alternative Program Serving Public School Middle and High Special Education Students

Our chief responsibility is to create and maintain a safe and positive learning environment for all students. The school’s mission is to improve academic skills and increase appropriate school and social behaviors. It is expected that students will take advantage of this opportunity to improve their educational experiences. Aggression Replacement Training (ART) and Crisis Prevention Intervention (CPI) programs are implemented in the school curriculum and address the needs of all students by giving them the tools necessary to interact appropriately in a variety of settings. When individual goals are achieved in the ETC program, students may return to their district school and continue their education.

ETC is an Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) approved 14-7.02 non-public special education program where student referrals are generated from the district special education departments. Typically, students placed in 14-7.02 programs have such severe and perhaps complicated clinical and educational needs that school districts may opt to refer their students to outside district placements after exploring other least restrictive options. These placements can last anywhere from short periods of time (i.e. one semester), up to longer stretches (i.e. multiple years). The ETC program provides special education and therapy services for emotional disability, specific learning disabilities, and other health impairment youth in grades 6-12.

The Illinois Purchase Care Review Board sets the tuition rate. The program is funded by district paid tuition. School districts claim the student General State Aid. In addition, the district is responsible for the first two per caps. Anything over the two per caps is reimbursed based on proration (last it was 99%). Further information on tuition reimbursement can be obtained by contacting the program director.

Staff receive ongoing training in (CPI) and (ART) as well as classroom management, verbal de-escalation, and behavior intervention. Our teachers and therapists receive professional development for new ways to gain student cooperation and more positive discipline techniques.

One special aspect of the ETC program is the diverse learning environment at the center. In our building, we have a computer lab and art annex. In addition to the media lab, each classroom has a minimum of four computers. Educational experiences are not limited to the school building. Sites throughout the St. Louis metropolitan area provide the students with academic and recreational opportunities.

Ladder to Success

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The ETC program maintains high academic and behavior expectations.

Service learning projects benefit the ETC students in our school by involving them in fundamental decision making, curriculum connection, developing team building, social skills and increased civic participation. Faculty and staff collaborate with community groups such as animal shelters, day care centers and local organizations in planning and coordinating service learning projects. Vocational exploration is designed to help students find the right career, investigate different career options, or plan future education and training. Technology is integrated in core curriculum. Our P.E. program provides outdoor education, cooperative learning activities, sports and physical fitness programs.