

The Value of SESI Schools

Specialized Education Services, Inc. (SESI) is a leading provider of customized, privatized educational services for K–12 special needs students faced with moderate to severe challenges: learning disabilities, emotional issues, autism spectrum disorders, behavioral problems, multiple disabilities, and everything in between. With close to 3,000 students currently enrolled in our 40+ schools and programs across the country — including dedicated autism centers and alternative education academies for at-risk youth — SESI is fully prepared and perfectly positioned to best meet the individual needs of individual students most in need.



THE PREMIER OPTION

SESI is a key component on the specialized education landscape for one basic reason: rather than competing with the public school system to provide necessary, government-mandated services for **difficult-to-educate students**, we actually assist school districts by offering them truly **effective and cost-efficient alternatives** to educating the nation's most challenging student populations. In schools across America, LD, ED, and ASD diagnoses are on the rise; the dropout rate continues to escalate; and students who pose discipline problems are disrupting traditional classrooms. Now more than ever, nontraditional options are needed so that all students can receive the education they deserve in a setting that best suits their learning requirements. | **No one provides those options better than SESI.** Our numerous **High Road and Sierra Schools and Academies** have been expertly serving **special ed students** for over 25 years with unprecedented results; our dedicated **Rivendale Centers for Autism** provide unparalleled services for students across the autism spectrum; and our recent partnership with **Success Schools** has allowed us to now reach troubled urban youth in record numbers through our time-proven, targeted **alternative education** programs. By concentrating on maximizing the potential of these students, we build their confidence and competence, assimilate them into their communities, and prepare them to become responsible, contributing, fulfilled members of society. | When it comes to giving **at-risk kids** the very best chance they have at success — academically, emotionally, developmentally, socially, and behaviorally — **SESI is the very best choice.**

“I am thankful for and deeply appreciative of the **professionalism, expertise, and commitment** of the High Road team, which played a key role in **supporting** [us] to design a turnaround school for this student population.”

Miriam Morales-Taylor, Assistant Superintendent for Learning Support Services, Hartford Public Schools, CT

“They have an **incredible openness** to work with a wide range of students ... **flexible** ... they always do a great job of making the students feel welcome. Their vocational and behavioral programs are excellent, and they have the **best teachers.**”

Ellen Dalton, Lawyer/Advocate, Washington, DC

“I can say with due diligence and sincerity that this **partnership** is one of the best I have witnessed in my 41 years of service. These people are **professional, honest, and dedicated** to the future of all children.”

Reginald Robinson, Director, Special Education Administration, Baltimore City Public Schools, MD

HIGHLIGHTS OF SESI SCHOOLS

- On average, graduation rates at SESI schools exceed the national average by 22%.
- Our attendance rates match or surpass state averages in every state in which we operate.
- Most recent survey of districts and parents revealed an average of 90% satisfaction rate with our fulfillment of behavioral, learning, and emotional needs of our students and virtually 100% satisfaction with our across-the-board services, the openness of our staff, and the welcoming atmosphere of our schools.
- Districts consistently rank SESI programs as a “Top 3” placement choice for students with special needs.
- We produce impressive post-secondary education rates, as well as job or job-training placements, following graduation.
- 97% of our students report being pleased with their school after 9 months in one of our programs, as measured by the Piers-Harris Self-Concept Scale.
- Students achieve up to a 1.4-year grade-level gain in reading and up to a 1.9-year gain in math over the course of two semesters in a SESI program (LD students in High Road Academies achieve even greater annual gains, up to 3 grade levels).

Building Confidence & Competence Through Personalized Academic & Behavioral Interventions





PARTNERING WITH DISTRICTS TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

As a growth-oriented company always looking for opportunities to further our mission and increase our impact on special education and alternative education students most in need, SESI offers partnerships with school districts by which they can fully meet all federal- and state-level education requirements, but with SESI actually delivering the services under the auspices of the public school system. | One such collaborative option is our **In-District Classroom Program**, which establishes a SESI program in only 1 or 2 designated classrooms on the premises of a public school, like we're currently doing in Anne Arundel County, MD. Students remain with their peers and continue to benefit from all public school amenities, but they receive the one-on-one attention they require to address identified learning deficits. | Another option, on a yearly contractual basis, is our **School-Turnaround Program**, which entails taking over the management and operations of an existing publically funded, district-run school, but running it more affordably and effectively than the school district's resources and staffing allow. We're currently doing this in Hartford, CT, and at the New Hope Academy in Baltimore, described as **"nothing short of a miracle ... one of the most dramatic turnarounds"** by the former Supervisor of Special Education Non-Public Placements for the Baltimore City School District and as **"the best school I've ever attended ... the people here really care"** by one of New Hope's own students. Districts interested in this service option can expect the same kind of results garnered during New Hope's first year in operation: (1) \$1.7 million savings in yearly operation costs; (2) 35% attendance rate improvement; (3) 95% parent satisfaction rating; and (4) close to a 1-year grade-level gain in reading and in math in only an 8-month span.

"I love them. All of the staff are **dynamic, thorough, dedicated, conscientious**. Parents are always very pleased with the school. Their most valuable asset is their **purpose and vision**."

Carol Bagwell, Special Education Coordinator, Southington, CT

"... **rigorous academic program** that allows students to earn diplomas by completing all of the state requirements ... **wonderful vocational program**."

Tami Fien, Program Specialist, Sacramento City Unified School District, CA

"They have been nothing less than **exceptional** and have made **all the difference in the world** for the young men that I sent ... strong both academically and vocationally."

Richard Borner, CT Department of Mental Health & Addiction Services

WHY SESI SCHOOLS ARE THE RIGHT SCHOOLS

- We have the resources, the expertise, and the commitment to educate and the enrich the lives of the most challenging student populations with all manner of disability, from learning disorders to emotional issues to those at risk of dropping out.
- All of our schools are state-approved in the state in which they operate; we design all our curricula to align with state standards, and we customize individual student programming to meet all IEP requirements.
- Our schools boast an industry-high average student-to-staff ratio of 1:2.3.
- Our educational model highlights diverse and innovative teaching modalities and technology in the classroom, featuring 90,000 pieces of curricula, 40 customized software programs, 4 computers per classroom (2 students per every 1 computer), and, as of the 2010–2011 school year, iPads in the classroom.
- All classrooms are equipped with leading-edge supportive technology (e.g., Co:Writer, WordQ, SuccessMaker, Dragon NaturallySpeaking, Inspiration/Kidspiration, Kurzweil).
- Data-driven decision-making is based on standardized program assessments (e.g., KeyMath, WJ-III, Orton-Gillingham, Wilson, Lindamood-Bell, FastForWord) and integrated systemization for IEP goal tracking.
- The fully developed behavior management system implemented in all our facilities ensures a safe and structured environment, maintains discipline, promotes accountability and self-monitoring, and keeps students on task and on target.
- Personalized attention, individualized instruction, positive feedback, and building self-esteem are the cornerstones of our one-of-a-kind model.
- We offer the full continuum of supplementary services, including but not limited to: speech/language therapy, physical/occupational therapy, art/music therapy, individual/group counseling, and psychological/psychiatric evaluations.
- Our high schools provide a full range of vocational training and employment preparation programs and services.
- An emphasis on community encourages societal involvement, introduces students to the opportunities available in their own neighborhoods, and plants the seeds of altruism.
- An even greater emphasis on family prioritizes the involvement and input of parents and guardians in our programs.
- We employ only the most talented, dedicated, and nurturing special educators, therapists, and support staff in the business.
- Myriad extracurricular activities enhance our core programs and engage our students' interests and talents, like annual talent shows and art/science fairs, mock debates, field trips, charitable events, and intramural sports leagues.
- We never give up on a child ... never.