

The Value of SESI Schools

Specialized Education Services, Inc. (SESI) is one of the country's leading providers of privatized special education services for students facing moderate to severe learning, language, and social challenges, with 36 schools and programs in 7 states nationwide and a current enrollment of 1,750 students.



WHAT WE DO BEST

SESI is an integral component of the current and future special education landscape for one basic reason: rather than competing with the public school system to provide necessary, government-mandated services for K–12 special needs students, we actually assist school districts by offering them a truly effective and cost-efficient alternative to educating the nation's most challenging student populations. Over 50% of the country's special ed students are classified as LD (21% of our student body), but the majority of SESI's students are categorized as ED (46% ED / 15% MD [ED + LD] = 61%), and our ability to serve autistic students has grown in proportion to the country's need in recent years — all of which is testament to our extensive experience with and deep commitment to improving the prospects of our nation's most difficult-to-educate kids. By concentrating on maximizing the potential of these kids, we build their confidence and competence, assimilate them into their communities, and prepare them to become responsible, contributing, fulfilled members of society. As SESI expertly leads these students toward success, sometimes for the first time in their lives, we ease the burden of public school districts by not just meeting their expectations, but exceeding them across all ages, all ranges of disability, and at all levels — academically, emotionally, developmentally, behaviorally, and socially.

"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

"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

"They are good at **returning students to the public schools**. ...They are also very strong in reading and language."

Ron Caplan,
Instructional Facilitator for
Special Education,
Howard County, MD

HIGHLIGHTS OF SESI SCHOOLS

- Whereas the dropout rate for students with disabilities is over twice that of the general population (and the dropout rate for ED students is even higher, at approximately 50%), SESI graduates 90% of its ED students.
- 90% of our graduating ED students transition into jobs or job-training programs.
- We produce impressive post-secondary education rates (e.g., 85% of our most recent pool of graduates from the Washington, DC, High Road Schools went on to college, with 71% of those attending four-year colleges).
- 23% of students made full or partial transitions to LRE in the 2007–2008 school year.
- 96% of our students' parents and guardians report satisfaction with our schools.
- 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.
- On average, students achieve a 1-year grade-level increase in reading and in math over a 9-month period.
- Attendance rate ranges from 80–97% across all our LD and ED schools.

*Building Confidence & Competence Through
Personalized Academic & Behavioral Interventions*





EXPANDING OUR SERVICE LINE: DISTRICT PARTNERSHIPS MAKING A DIFFERENCE

As a growth-oriented company always looking for opportunities to further our mission and increase our impact on special 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 to establish a High Road or Sierra program in only one or two designated classrooms on the premises of a public school, like we're currently doing in 4 middle schools in Anne Arundel County, MD. Another option, on a yearly contractual basis, is to take over the management and operations of an existing publically funded, district-run school, but we can run it more affordably and effectively than the school district's resources and staffing allow. Our most recent success story in this vein is the New Hope Academy in Baltimore, MD, 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 at New Hope during the 2008–2009 school year:

- A cost-effective alternative to a publically run program (the district's \$5.9 million yearly operating costs vs. SESI's \$4.2 million)
- 35% attendance rate improvement
- 95% parent satisfaction rating
- Close to a 1-year grade-level gain in reading and in math in only an 8-month span

"We were very impressed with the thoughtful and sensitive approach with which you created a learning environment based on individualized student-centered learning principles."

Professor Trevor E. Sewell, College of Education, Temple University

"... 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 a proven track record in educating the most challenging student populations, predominately those with multiple disabilities, emotional disturbances, and autism spectrum disorders.
- All of our schools are state-approved in the state in which they operate (with our CA schools WASC-accredited); we design all our curricula to align with state standards, and we customize individual student programming to meet all IEP requirements.
- Our educational model features 90,000 pieces of curricula, 40 customized software programs, 4 computers per classroom, 2 students per every 1 computer, and our schools boast an industry-high average student-to-staff ratio of 1:2.3.
- 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, siblings, and grandparents 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 both inside and outside the classroom, 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.