

North Star Behavioral Health Systems; Alaska's Strategic Plan

North Star Behavioral Health Systems (North Star) recognizes and embraces the State Department of Education's on-going commitment to the Alaska Education Plan (AEP) and the Alaska State Literacy Blueprint (ASLB). North Star also supports the Division of Behavioral Health's mission to manage an integrated and comprehensive behavioral health system based on sound policy, effective practices and partnerships.

Ideally, educational services should dovetail with mental health treatment so that children and youth receive the support they need in a seamless, coordinated and comprehensive system of care. Research demonstrates that social-emotional and mental health support is directly related to children's learning and development; and that children receiving mental health treatment need a specialized learning environment to excel. North Star is a firm believer in accountability and fully supports the state's ambitious goals to raise student achievement and graduate students prepared for careers or post-secondary training and education. North Star will work collaboratively with the state as a partner in reaching its objectives through thoughtful collaboration, strategic initiatives and allocation of resources.

In addition to aligning the educational services to the initiatives in the Alaska Education Plan and Alaska State Literacy Blueprint, North Star will comply with the Policies and Procedures for the Provisions of Specially Designed Instruction and Related Services for Exceptional Students. The program shall implement the requirements of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act of 2004 (P.L. 108-447) and its implementing regulations in Title 34 of the Code of Federal Regulations in collaboration with each child's resident school district.

Innovative, Evidence Based Educational Services

North Star will provide an innovative, evidence based instructional program to children and adolescents that have been admitted under a physician's order due to meeting medical necessity. The program is developed to create academic and emotional success for patients in a non-traditional residential healthcare environment. North Star's caring and well trained team of professionals truly values that every patient has unique circumstances and needs a variety of instructional models to choose from in order to continue progressing in line with their assigned grade level course work.

Program Accountability Goals:

- 98% Daily Attendance Rate
- 90% Course Completion Rate, 90% Credit Recovery Rate
- 95% Annual Successful Reintegration Rate
- 95% Weekly Parental / Resident School District Involvement Contact Rate
- Increase Reading and Math Scores by .7 grade level each semester
- Decrease / Increase Targeted Behaviors Identified in Behavior Intervention Plan (BIP) at a Success Rate of 80%
- 80% Skill Acquisition Increase in Skill Areas Identified in the ABLLS-R for those Students Participating in the ASD, ID & Related Services Specialty Program
- 85% Positive Response Rate from Annual Parent / Guardian Survey

Individualized Educational Services Complimenting Intensive Mental Health Treatment

Each Alaska Department of Education approved course that North Star offers is designed to actively engage each patient throughout the day to achieve positive, prosocial behavioral and educational outcomes. The instructional design at North Star is supplemented by a 24/7 treatment environment and can be summarized by one word, *"Integration"*. This integration is found between all educational, behavioral, medical and functional areas. Teachers will work collaboratively to integrate content areas that connect speech and language, occupational therapy, sensory integration, social skills, health and wellness, and behavioral interventions. "Individualized" is the term that best describes how teachers will support the curriculum and treatment at North Star. Research indicates that patients grasp concepts better and retain information more consistently when they have the opportunity to participate actively and directly in the learning process. Each academic course offered at North Star has specific state approved performance objectives and detailed statements of the knowledge and skills required to be mastered.

Individualized Learning Plan (ILP) / Individualized Education Plan (IEP)

Upon admission into North Star, the patient, parents, guardians, resident school district and the program's interdisciplinary treatment team will jointly develop an Individualized Learning Plan (ILP) outlining the goals and objectives of each patient's course of study. Furthermore, North Star will ensure that every patient with special needs participating in the program be provided with a current Individualized Education Plan (IEP) through their resident school district. North Star's approach to implementing a student's IEP is based upon delivering specially designed instruction that is marked by logical consistency and measurable outcomes. Every patient's progress and response to interventions will be documented daily and the interdisciplinary team will share this information through correspondence with parents, guardians and resident school districts. North Star's Alaska Department of Education certified teachers will consistently review the educational validity of each curriculum lesson plan in order that they align with the Alaska State Standards and focus on:

- Increasing academic skills including reading, math, writing, science, history and career development
- Increasing the ability to make informed choices, becoming their own advocate and improving their quality of life indicators
- Organizing the environment through the use of clear visual information that is geared towards the student's strengths, learning styles and interests
- Transition skills from activity to activity
- Skills for tolerating and dealing with unexpected changes and emergencies
- Gross, fine and sensory motor skills
- Maximizing social-emotional reciprocity, communication skills, attending skills and cognitive processing
- Developing independent functioning in home, vocational and community settings

Comparison of Services

Position	Anchorage School District	North Star
School Administrator	It is stated by ASD that the Whaley Center Principal serves as the School Administrator but no on-sight services quantified	1
Administrative Assistant	1 shared with other 8 Special Schools	1
ESE Specialist / Counselor	.5 stated by ASD to be shared with the 8 Special Schools; North Star does not report interacting with this person	.5
Teacher	6	12
Teacher Assistant	2	North Star will cross train 10 MHTs through its ParaPro Training
# of Hours of Instruction	2-4 Hours; On-line Only	5 Hours; Hybrid Model
Computers	10 Laptops	North Star has already provided: 73 Computers 11 Laptops 2 Lockable Storage Units