

consulting services, and leads clinical professional development activities for West staff. The school nurse manages all aspects of psychotropic medication management, mental health related medical issues, and coordinates the activities of the Multidisciplinary Team.

Parents as Partners

Parents and guardians play an integral role in their child's treatment at West School. We believe no one knows a child better than their family. The West School staff values and expects parental input and involvement in their child's individual treatment program. The staff provides parents and guardians with many opportunities to work with them in helping their child achieve specific treatment and learning goals. Over the years, a direct, positive correlation has been shown between the level of parental involvement and a child's response to treatment.

Community Services

West School strives to provide its students with seamless services. Toward this end, West staff advocates for student access to community-based case management services, counseling support, mental health services, and in-home supports as needed. Over the years, West School has developed strong, collaborative working relationships with a vast array of community service providers to enhance this seamless service model of support. In-house, in collaboration with Portland Public Health, West provides a free clinic for check-ups, sick care, immunizations, dental cleanings and screenings, as well as referrals to other medical resources.



West School Day Treatment Program

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*A specialized
educational environment
dedicated to fostering
each individual's success
with academic, social,
and emotional growth*

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A Message from the Director

The West School Day Treatment Program has been providing high quality services to Portland Public Schools students since 1999. This unique program has enabled scores of Portland children with emotional disabilities and/or mental health diagnoses to have their needs successfully addressed within their home community, instead of being referred to out-of-district programs.



*Peter McCormack, Director
West School
Day Treatment Program*

Our mission with all our students is to provide a safe and nurturing environment to prepare them academically, socially, emotionally, and behaviorally to transition to, and be successful in their neighborhood schools. Achieving this mission involves creating an individualized program for each student,

developed by a team consisting of parents/guardians, neighborhood school staff, school district specialists, community providers, and the student's classroom-based Learning Team at West School.

We offer specialized educational instruction in accordance with local, state, and federal guidelines and mandates. A student's Individual Educational Plan (IEP) guides their academic instruction, while their Individual Service Plan (ISP) drives their treatment. West School provides all its students with a therapeutic environment; throughout the school day, and in all school settings and activities, we are working with children to help them successfully achieve their treatment and learning goals. Helping a child develop positive, pro-social skills involves a process that takes a great deal of time and

patience. The highly skilled and dedicated West staff provides students and their parents with an extraordinary web of support that promotes the positive changes necessary to transition a child back to their neighborhood school.

Referral to the West School Day Treatment Program is made through the Pupil Evaluation Team (PET) in a child's home school, and only after all building-based options and interventions have been exhausted. The West program also offers a limited number of short-term diagnostic and assessment placements through its Interim Assessment Educational Center (IAEC). I encourage you to read this brochure to learn more about our school. You are always welcome to call me if you would like more information about the West School program.

West School Program Highlights

The West School Day Treatment Program serves the Portland Public Schools. West School provides day treatment-level services to Portland students in grades 1-12. Day treatment services represent an integration of therapeutic and educational programming designed to support children who have been identified with significant social, emotional, or mental health issues that adversely affect their learning and access to the general curriculum.

Staff Training

West School's greatest resource is its staff. West School staff are highly trained to meet the needs of the behaviorally challenging students they work with. Most staff are certified in Therapeutic Crisis Intervention (TCI), an intense 24 hours of training that focuses on the prevention, de-escalation, and containment of high levels of behavior. Ongoing professional development provides the staff with the professional edge they need to

address the ever-changing needs of their students.

Learning Team Model

West School has developed a strong Learning Team model that provides team members the individual and collective support they need to enhance staff resiliency, facilitate effective communication, and collaboratively address the complex needs of their students. All Learning Teams practice the attributes of high-performing teams: daily pre-briefings and debriefings, equality of voice, and effective feedback structures. Learning Teams adhere to site-developed Norms of Communication.

Classroom Model

All West School classroom programs are unique, but share some common structures. Each classroom, with its very low student-to-staff ratio, employs an individualized daily system for measuring a child's progress toward their identified goals. This information is communicated to the child's home every day. (Essentially, it's like a daily report card.) Student progress is discussed by the Learning Team and graphed more formally on a monthly basis. All classrooms employ a comprehensive behavior management approach to facilitate positive social skills development. Secondary classrooms use a Level System model that emphasizes student responsibility and accountability for behavior.

Clinical Model

The West School clinicians, school nurse, psychological staff, and other specialists provide a thorough array of treatment services for West students. Social workers provide students with individual counseling on a weekly basis. Pro-social coping skills classes are facilitated weekly by social workers in all classrooms, and these skills are reinforced throughout the week by the classroom staff. Social workers provide comprehensive case management services to their students based on their needs. West's psychologist conducts comprehensive student assessments, provides