

North Star Charter School
Educational Program
Elementary Program Grades K-5



Please apply online at:

www.northstarcharter.org

North Star's Educational Programs and Goals

DEFINING AN EDUCATED PERSON

An educated person in the 21st century has a strong foundation in basic reading, writing, science, social studies, and computational skills. He has been educated in a technology-rich environment that has encouraged the effective use of technology as a tool in the workplace. A 21st century learner develops the following intellectual habits important in the work place: adapting to new situations and responding effectively to new information; critical thinking and solving problems; locating and evaluating information from a variety of sources; making flexible connection among various disciplines of thought; thinking logically and making informed judgments. NSCS instills in its 21st century learners, personal habits important in the work place: accepting responsibility for personal decisions and actions; honesty, courage, and integrity; leadership; a healthy lifestyle; empathy, courtesy, and respect for differences among people; reflection; self-confidence; concentration and perseverance; responsible time management; assuming a fair share of the work load; and working cooperatively with others to reach group consensus.

WHEN LEARNING BEST OCCURS

NSCS believes that students have the opportunity to accelerate their learning and excel when they are provided with a safe, supportive environment and challenging academic content. Students are actively engaged in learning when Highly Qualified teachers provide rich content in a safe and challenging environment. Learning best occurs when students are provided a teaching and learning climate that is positive and safe. Every student has the right to attend a school that encourages positive and productive learning, provides a safe and orderly environment, and promotes student respect for themselves and others. Students learn when their teachers and learning environment emphasize high expectations of behavior and performance. Students accelerate when they are given opportunities to develop and express exemplary character traits in concert with their overall education program. NSCS believes that learning occurs when:

- learners construct meaning;
- learners see the connection between what they learn and the real world;
- learners are actively engaged in purposeful tasks;
- activities are integrated and meaningful;
- learners work individually and as members of a group;
- learners are expected and encouraged to learn;

- learners internalize that what they learn and do in school makes a positive change in the community;
- learners are supported by passionate, engaged coaches, mentors, and advocates;
- all learners have advanced learning opportunities; and
- learners see themselves as part of the community and find ways to serve the community.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

No matter how skilled the teacher or how elaborate the classroom, learning takes place in the mind of the student. The most effective educational environment, therefore, is the one that stimulates and engages the mind of the student. The core educational philosophy of NSCS is grounded in the belief that providing a highly challenging content in a safe environment creates the setting for accelerated learning. NSCS offers an advanced curriculum to its students, focused on helping students meet and exceed the Idaho Core Standards. This offers students in our community a choice for public education that meets the needs of advanced learners, while ensuring that struggling learners receive the help to which they are entitled through Response to Intervention, direct paraprofessional support and differentiated learning.

This core educational philosophy is represented in NSCS evidence-based curricula and through student participation in a successful, spiraling curriculum, direct instruction, and the “teach to the top” philosophy that has helped NSCS students report some of the highest state-mandated, year-end assessment results in the state of Idaho. NSCS believes that when teachers design lessons around teaching to the advanced student (teaching to the top), all students in the classroom benefit from and accelerate their learning.

NSCS is made up of an Elementary Program covering grades K-5 and a Secondary Program covering grades 6-12, with the middle school years being grades 6-8 and the high school years being grades 9-12.

The Elementary Program (K-5)

Methodology

NSCS is committed to improving student achievement through high expectations for student engagement and meaningful preparation for postsecondary education and careers. NSCS’s curriculum, instructional methodologies, use of assessment, scheduling and professional development are designed and continually reviewed to ensure student achievement. This approach of continual critical inquiry dedicates NSCS to a student-focused model of best practice.

NSCS teachers utilize a combination of direct instruction and Idaho Core Standard-inspired questioning in group activities, designed around current educational research indicating

effectiveness and best practice. NSCS has maintained many of its philosophical education roots, with its focus on keeping the curricula challenging and the expectations for learning high, while utilizing the help and support of qualified educational assistance and classroom volunteers.

We draw not only on time-honored practices, but also on many valuable insights into childhood cognitive and developmental processes realized in recent decades. Moreover, we place strong emphasis on the relationship between the school and the home, recognizing the critical role of parents in fostering children's education.

We see ourselves as allies of the family, reinforcing parents' efforts to guide the intellectual, emotional, and moral development of their children. By providing moral and ethical standards, the school prepares its students to accept the privileges and responsibilities of citizenship. Every child is capable of achieving his or her potential to the fullest extent when afforded respect, fairness, kindness, discipline, and appropriate instruction.

Instruction Methods

NSCS seeks to achieve accelerated student learning by using cross-curricular methods to teach Idaho Core Standards. Through multiple methods, all students are capable of fulfilling their individual potential. NSCS currently uses the following instructional methods:

- **THE SUBJECT MATTER METHOD** presumes that an educated learner needs to know clearly defined skills and concepts that can best be learned in an organized sequential fashion. The primary method to ensure these skills are acquired is through direct-instruction. NSCS also utilizes computer-based learning for struggling learners who may be missing the prerequisite skills necessary for them to participate successfully in the general education curriculum. Computer-based learning offers students an opportunity to receive instruction at their instructional level, through state-sponsored computer-based programs such as Plato Learning Environment. Computer-based learning is also an engaging method for providing the opportunity for high-repetition drills sometimes necessary for learning.
- **THE INQUIRY AND PROBLEM-SOLVING METHOD** suggests that learning occurs when individuals think critically and solve problems. The predominant premise of this method is that it is important to know how to retrieve and use the information, not just to have instant recall and possession of the information. With the adoption of the Idaho Core Standards, North Star has shifted the way students indicate mastery of a skill from not only recalling the information on tests and quizzes but also applying the skill in problem solving and real-world situations.
- **THE DISCUSSION METHOD** encourages learning through sharing of information and concepts within a group, with the thinking process playing an important role. A discussion leader is prepared to recognize each learner's level of understanding and can respond at the level most helpful to the learner. The Discussion Method is encouraged by the Idaho Core Standards, as a way for learners to connect with one another through a sharing of ideas.

NSCS's educational roots are in the Subject Matter Method. However, NSCS has transitioned from a predominantly Subject Matter Method into a blended model, which also utilizes the Inquiry and Problem-Solving Method and Discussion Method. While the Subject Matter Method will always have its appropriate place in subjects such as phonemic awareness, phonics, and numerical operations, many skills are better taught and learned through the Inquiry and Problem-Solving Method and Discussion Method such as reading comprehension skills, and math application and word problem solving skills.

Curriculum

The Idaho State Department of Education's Core Standards serve as the starting point and is enhanced with unifying themes and other creative methods. The subjects that make up the curriculum are listed and briefly discussed below. Traditional core curriculum areas--language, social studies, science, physical education, and mathematics--remain strongly emphasized. The core curriculum is enhanced with music/arts and business/economics.

Language Arts Through a formalized team process, NSCS adopted McGraw –Hills Wonders reading program and Being a Writer writing program for their elementary students.

WONDERS is a comprehensive ELA program built on new standards. Through its intentional instruction, inspiring content, and purposeful technology, WONDERS prepares all students for college and career in the 21st century. WONDERS fully connects programs built for English Language Arts, intervention, and enrichment. Every instructional minute counts as students move ahead efficiently, always focused on the same skills, strategies, and standards, no matter what a child's level of ability, materials are provided that allows their needs to be met. WONDERS is filled with exemplars, award winners and other high interest literacy and informational texts that range across many genres, eras, and cultures. As students engage with the essential questions each week, they're gaining access to complex texts, collaborating with their peers, and becoming accomplished at writing to sources. WONDERS provides our students with unsurpassed resources that support instruction both in the classroom and at home, both in print and in digital formats. WONDERS helps our students at North Star make connections to the world around them and prepare them for success.

The Being a Writer program teaches the writing process while developing intrinsic motivation for the craft of writing through immersion in the narrative, informational, and opinion/argumentative writing genres. Instruction encourages students to write regularly with passion and intent as it builds an understanding of and appreciation for the skills and conventions of writing.

Creating classroom experiences that develop a love of writing and allow children to express their thinking requires thoughtful, intentional instruction. Being a Writer provides this instruction by interweaving academic and social skill development. Teachers facilitate student discussion, provide a model for the respectful exchange of ideas, and help students develop their own voices.

With Being a Writer, students learn to love writing and grow through the grades as writers, thinkers, and principled people, and teachers hone their skills, both as teachers of writing and as writers themselves.

Social Studies, Business and Economics

NSCS's social studies curriculum includes instruction in history, government, geography, current world affairs, and sociology with an emphasis on community, citizenship, business and economics. This focus on citizenship, business and economics is a unique curriculum choice, which NSCS is proud to make available to its community. As students' progress through the NSCS curricula, the emphasis is enhanced with an additional focus on community service and how students apply their understanding of and their contributions to the community around them. North Star's elementary program participates in Junior Achievement program each spring. Junior Achievement is the world's largest organization dedicated to educating students in grades K-12 about entrepreneurship, work readiness and financial literacy through experiential, hands-on programs.

Science

NSCS's science curriculum is a multi-year sequence that emphasizes hands-on experimentation and functional knowledge of scientific phenomena. NSCS is proud to offer an elementary science curriculum taught by a dedicated and certified science teacher in grades 1st through 5th. This unique commitment emphasizes NSCS's dedication and commitment to ensuring a superior science curriculum and experience for all students.

Physical Education

A flexible physical education program, taught by a certified teacher, ensures that NSCS students develop the coordination, motor skills and overall fitness necessary to lead healthy and active lives. Students are expected to participate in physical education activities, which will teach them good sportsmanship, team play, and participation that will translate and generalize into the classroom and personal settings. Students also receive monthly health lessons which follow state standards.

Mathematics

NSCS appreciates and promotes the need for math to be a hands-on learning experience, when learning how to apply math strategies. Students engage in exploration, conjuring and deeper level thinking promoted by the Idaho Core Standards and the Math Thinking for Instruction (MTI) methodologies. MTI methods are designed to help the student understand the multitude of methods available for solving any given math problem, rather than the rigid approach historically taken to solving math problems via one specific algorithm or strategy. MTI methodologies take into consideration the child's cognitive development, issues of number, meanings of operations

and how they relate to one another, and computation within the number system as a foundation for algebra, number systems, ways of representing numbers, meanings of operations and how they relate to one another, working with qualitative and quantitative change and the need to describe and predict variation.

NSCS students develop a high degree of mathematical literacy and qualitative proficiency as indicated by consistently strong year-end summative assessments. Mathematics is taught as a tool for reasoning and problem solving in purposeful ways through a combination of initial explicit and direct instruction, followed by application in problem solving and real-world situations. North Star adopted the Bridges Math Curriculum in grades K-5th in 2016 and has seen wonderful student success through data and an increased excitement and engagement shown by students!

Music/Arts

NSCS utilizes the Orff-Schulwerk method for music teaching and learning, combined with and supported by movement, based on things children like to do: sing, chant rhymes, clap, dance, and keep a beat or play a rhythm on anything near at hand. These natural behaviors are directed first into responding to and making music; reading and writing music are a later natural outgrowth of these experiences. Composer Carl Orff, originator of the approach, called this music and movement activity “elemental” – basic, unsophisticated, concerned with the fundamental building blocks of both art forms. The purpose is to provide a means for awakening the potential in every child for being “musical” – able to understand and use music and movement as forms of expression. The further intent is to develop a foundation for lifelong enjoyment of music and movement/dance, and for some, the incentive for specialized individual study.

Technology

Technology will be used to support a child's natural way of learning through individual and group discovery and seeking solutions to real-life challenges. NSCS will provide our learners with technology skills that prepare them for future employment. In the elementary grades, students receive explicit instruction related to keyboarding, basic computer skills and the utilization of technology in NSCS’s elementary computer lab by a certified teacher. North Star teachers utilize an array of technologies each day in their classroom through chrome books, laptops, iPads and Apple TVs used for the delivery of instruction and the use of projection screens to enhance visual presentation.

Program Goals

All students will participate in common learning that will fulfill the school's mission. It is the intent of the NSCS to ensure that students achieve and exceed the Idaho Core Standards.

Our students will learn to:

- develop oral and written skills;
- use knowledge and skills, think logically, and solve problems related to mathematics;
- acquire sufficient knowledge of science to be responsible users of scientific information;
- develop their aesthetic talents in music, visual arts, and/or performance.

In keeping with NSCS's mission, we recognize that education is more than the assimilation of facts. Proficiency in a discipline means that the learner becomes a capable practitioner and has a sufficient foundation to pursue advanced study. NSCS emphasizes both the acquisition and application of knowledge.

NORTH STAR'S CHARACTER PROGRAM

NSCS emphasizes the ongoing development of the whole person.

“Schools must not only help students become literate and well informed, they must also help them develop the capacity to live responsibly and to judge wisely in matters of life and conduct.”

Dr. Ernest L. Boyer

President of the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, Princeton, NJ

Principal Magazine, NAESP

September, 1995

A unique quality of NSCS is the conscious emphasis placed on the non-academic part of our educational program. We see that schools have a critical role to play in helping to shape and reinforce basic values. The key work of our character program not only develops healthy, young leaders aware of their responsibility in the world, it also helps create the environment in which learning can best take place.

Our character program has three elements: Character/Leadership, Service, and Physical Wellness. This is done through monthly lessons and themes in both our STAR character program as well as our health lessons.

Character and Leadership Development

In the early years above all else, we see ourselves as allies of the family, reinforcing parents' efforts to guide the intellectual, emotional, and moral development of their children. By providing moral and ethical standards, the school prepares its student to accept the privileges and responsibilities of citizenship. Every child is capable of achieving his or her potential to the fullest extent when afforded respect, fairness, kindness, discipline, and appropriate instruction.

NSCS represents a partnership among its students, parents, and faculty. A child has the right to come to school without fear of taunting, teasing, or violence. Parents have the right to expect a

school to provide a safe, kind environment for their children. Teachers have the right to teach in an orderly environment without fear of violence. NSCS's dedication and commitment to providing a safe learning environment for every student is core to what NSCS provides its community of students.

Professional development focuses teachers on learning related to school culture and climate. Administration and staff learn how to develop a healthy school culture through book studies and discussions related to fostering and maintaining a healthy school climate and culture. NSCS believes building relationship and knowing both students and staff members is important part of school safety.

STAR CHARACTER PROGRAM

- Respect
- Responsibility
- Honesty
- Emotional Regulation
- Perseverance/Self-discipline
- Friendship Cooperation Kindness
- Honesty/ Integrity
- Enthusiasm
- Growth Mindset
- Citizenship
- Response and Self-reflection

THOROUGHNESS STANDARDS (IDAHO CODE 33-1612)

NSCS will fulfill the thoroughness standards identified in Idaho Code. It has been established that a thorough system of public schools in Idaho is one in which the following standards are met:

STANDARD A

A safe environment conducive to learning is provided.

Goal: Maintain a positive and safe teaching and learning climate.

Objectives: NSCS will:

- Adhere to a philosophy which is focused on character developments that promote student respect for themselves and others.
- Develop a staff/student handbook to provide rules and guidelines for physical safety. These guidelines will include and not be limited to the procedures for fire drills, reporting unsafe equipment, methods for checking students in and out of school, notification of parents' rights, and staff monitoring responsibilities.
- Provide a facility that adopts policies that meet all required city, state, and federal health, accessibility, safety, fire, and building codes for public schools, and is inspected as required to ensure the safety of students and staff.
- Establish, publish, and enforce policies that define acceptable and unacceptable behavior, including zero tolerance for weapons, violence, gangs, and use or sale of alcohol and drugs.
- Create an environment that encourages parents and other adults to visit the school and participate in the school's activities.

STANDARD B

Educators are empowered to maintain classroom discipline.

Goal: Create a positive teaching and learning environment with an emphasis on high expectations of behavior and performance.

Objectives: NSCS will:

- Establish behavioral expectations for students, staff and visitors that encourage a positive and respectful school climate and culture that is essential to creating and maintaining a safe and supportive school community.
- Follow the guiding principles of a classroom discipline model focused on respect for oneself and ones learning environment.
- Develop a student/parent handbook providing a code of conduct including clear expectations and consequences for unacceptable behavior, and a process for teachers to handle minor and major infractions in the classroom setting.
- Teach appropriate behaviors and foster responsible decision-making skills.
- Establish and maintain consistent rules aligned throughout the school.

STANDARD C

The basic values of honesty, self-discipline, unselfishness, respect for authority, and the central importance of work are emphasized.

Goal: Offer opportunities for students to develop and express exemplary character traits in concert with the overall educational program.

Objectives: NSCS will:

- Adhere to a philosophy which focuses on character development, emphasizing the importance of adults modeling.
- Help students build personal bonds and carry out responsibilities to one another and to the faculty and staff.
- Develop a sense of community and service within the school, and between the school and the larger community.

STANDARD D

The skills necessary to communicate effectively are taught.

Goal: Teach students a range of effective communication skills, both written and oral, skills appropriate for the 21st century.

Objectives: NSCS North Star Charter School will:

- Integrate meaningful language experience in reading, writing, oral presentation and spelling, across the content areas.
- Provide a technology-rich environment to enable students to assess information, process ideas and communicate results.

STANDARD E

A basic curriculum necessary to enable students to enter academic or professional-technical post-secondary educational programs is provided.

Goal: Develop an educated citizenry for the 21st century through a dynamic, interactive academic program which grounds a student in the basics of reading, writing, mathematics, science, and social studies as a means to lead students to more in depth thinking.

Objectives: NSCS will:

- Use the Idaho State Department of Education's Core Standards as a starting point to engage students in research-based and evidence-based pedagogy, a prerequisite for entry into the International Baccalaureate curriculum
- Emphasize American history and the lives and writings of the Founders.
- Integrate business and economic concepts
- Provide a strong foundation in basic reading, writing, science, social studies, and computational skills.
- Provide a technology-rich environment, encouraging the effective use of technology as a tool in the workplace of the 21st century.
- Physical activity during the school day will be incorporated into the curriculum.

STANDARD F

The skills necessary for the students to enter the workforce are taught

Goal: Teach students “Habits of Mind” that are essential to post-secondary education and the work place, i.e. persistence, flexible thinking, metacognition, innovation, risk taking, life-long learning, problem-solving, etc...

Objectives: NSCS will:

- Utilize STAR Character Program to teach effective “Habits of Mind”.
- Enable students to develop the following intellectual habits important in the work place: adapting to new situations and responding effectively to new information; solving problems; locating and evaluating information from a variety of sources; making flexible connections among various disciplines of thought; thinking logically and making informed judgments.
- Enable students to develop the following personal habits important in the work place: accepting responsibility for personal decisions and actions; honesty, courage, and integrity; a healthy lifestyle; empathy, courtesy, and respect for differences among people; self-confidence; concentration and perseverance; responsible time management; assuming a fair share of the work load; and working cooperatively with others to reach group consensus.

STANDARD G

The students are introduced to current technology.

Goal: Provide students with a technology-rich environment using tools such as computers, scientific equipment, and networks linked to local and nationwide resources.

Objectives: NSCS will:

- Use interactive technology as tools in an integrated educational program rather than as primary instructional delivery systems.
- Emphasize the acquisition of basic computer skills as a supplementary medium of communication and research to complement other approaches.
- Use technology as tools for such activities as accessing research information, authoring, computation, record keeping and data storage, and communication.

STANDARD H

The importance of students acquiring the skills to enable them to be responsible citizens of their homes, schools, and communities is emphasized.

Goal: Provide students with the skills and understanding necessary to become responsible citizens in their respective jobs and communities of the 21st century.

Objectives: NSCS will:

- Engage students in service learning. Provide service learning experiences that reflect responsible citizenship in a democratic society and an interdependent world.
- Enable students to develop the following habits of responsible citizens: accepting responsibility for personal decisions and actions; honesty, courage and integrity; empathy, courtesy and respect for differences among people; assuming a fair share of the work load; and working cooperatively with others to reach group consensus.
- Enable students to understand and apply concepts and principles embedded in each of the social studies: history, geography, political science, and economics.

NSCS will achieve the Thoroughness Standards through implementation of an accelerated curriculum supported by a school culture based on a solid foundation of character education.

SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES

NSCS will serve all children including special education, Gifted and Talented, students requiring Section 504 Accommodations and LEP (Limited English Proficient) students. NSCS will follow the requirements of IDEA, the state of Idaho, and all other federal and state mandates regarding students with special needs.

The NSCS Board of Directors will adopt the 2007 Idaho Special Education Manual with all subsequent revisions and implement appropriate special education policies and procedures consistent with state and federal laws, rules, regulations, and legal requirements. All children will receive appropriate services as outlined in the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act, Section 504, and the Idaho Special Education Manual.

NSCS will plan and budget to provide Highly Qualified special education teacher(s) and other personnel, physical facilities that are appropriately accessible to permit access by students with disabilities, funding and contractual arrangements to ensure that NSCS students with disabilities receive special education and services as required in IDEA 2004 and outlined on the students' IEPs. All special education personnel will meet highly qualified special education standards and will be interviewed, selected, hired, trained, and in place by the first day of the 2019-2020 school year. To meet these expectations, NSCS will conduct a yearly Child Find activity.

NSCS will follow a three-step process, as outlined in the Idaho Special Education Manual, to determine whether or not a student requires special education services:

1. The school will locate students by establishing and implementing an ongoing Child Find system, which will include referrals by parents, school staff, etc. An individual will be appointed to coordinate the development, revision, implementation, and documentation of the Child Find system.
2. NSCS's Child Find system will also publicize and ensure that staff and the school's constituents are informed of the availability of special education services through information included in staff orientation, on the school's web page, in registration materials and through the use of various social media.
3. NSCS will conduct a thorough and comprehensive evaluation for students referred, to determine if the student qualifies for special education services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. NSCS would adhere to the guidelines and timelines outlined in the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and the Idaho Special Education Manual. As outlined in the Idaho Special Education Manual, an evaluation team, which includes (at a minimum) a special education teacher, a general education teacher, a district representative, the student when appropriate and the parent and/or adult student, will review the information from the comprehensive evaluation to determine the student's eligibility for special education. These sources include, but are not limited to, general education interventions, formal and informal assessments, and progress in the general curriculum, and will also include any and all referrals by parents and/or other adults including teachers, counselors, or other school professionals as outlined in the Idaho Special Education Manual.

NSCS will implement and utilize a comprehensive Response to Intervention program as recommended in the Idaho Special Education Manual. This comprehensive, general education-led program will consist of the core components of problem identification, problem analysis,

applying researched-based intervention and progress monitoring to determine student response to the scientifically research-based interventions. Students who do not respond adequately to the Response to Intervention program may be considered for a Referral to Consider a Special Education Evaluation.

If during an evaluation process, the multi-disciplinary team determines the need for an evaluation by personnel not directly employed by NSCS, such as a school psychologist, speech therapist, occupational therapist, or other required experts not currently employed by the school, such evaluations will be contracted with a private provider. If the student qualifies for special education services, and the subsequent Individualized Education Plan (IEP) requires the need for contracting with personnel not directly employed by NSCS, then the NSCS will contract with the appropriate service providers to provide IEP-related services (i.e. Speech and Language Pathologist, Occupational Therapist, Physical Therapists etc.).

Individual Education Plans

A Highly Qualified special education teacher will be responsible to monitor Individual Education Plans (IEPs) and supervise the implementation as written. A special education teacher will provide services in an inclusion or a pull-out model depending on the degree of accommodation necessary to meet the student's needs. These services will be delivered by a special education teacher or licensed provider, with supporting para-educator(s) as allowed by IDEA and the ESEA. The special education teacher will consult with the general education staff to utilize effective classroom accommodations, adaptations, and modifications.

The continuum of settings and services will be provided at NSCS, include general education classes, resource classes, and provisions for supplemental services such as resource services, itinerant instruction provided in conjunction with the general classroom, classroom aides, replacement curricula, behavioral supports, etc. In determining appropriate settings and services for a student with a disability, the IEP team shall consider the student's needs and the variety of alternate placements and related services available to meet those needs. NSCS may contract with private providers for the provision of related services. Services may be provided by a licensed therapist, who may use a para-educator for support. In the rare event that the IEP team determines that the student's academic needs cannot be met on site, NSCS may contract with other agencies to provide those services.

For all special education students, NSCS will develop, review, and revise IEPs in accordance with state and federal laws. NSCS will adhere to the IDEA Procedural Safeguards and FERPA to assure protection of student and parent rights, including the confidentiality of personally identifiable information in student special education records. These statutes also provide for the right to review and inspect records. NSCS will ensure access to charter school programs, as required by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). NSCS's building plan will permit access

by students with disabilities. The school will provide transportation for special education students when the student's IEP requires it as a result of the multidisciplinary team decision.

NSCS uses evidenced-based programming and curricula when working with students with disabilities who need supplemental or replacement curricula. NSCS will follow the guidelines provided by the IDEA and Idaho Special Education Manual in regards to the disciplining of a student protected under the IDEA. This will include the consideration of a Functional Behavior Assessment and subsequent Behavior Intervention Plan when the special-education multidisciplinary team identifies that the behavior of the student impacts their learning or the learning of others. When the Behavior Intervention Plan is required, it will be developed with Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports. When required in accordance with the IDEA and Idaho Special Education Manual, the special education multidisciplinary team will conduct a Manifestation Determination to establish whether or not the misconduct of a student with a disability was (1) a demonstration of the disability, that is, an inability to understand impact and consequences or an inability to control behavior; (2) the result of an inappropriate placement; and/or (3) the lack of provision of services consistent with the IEP and placement.

Nondiscriminatory Enrollment Procedures

NSCS will not deny enrollment to a student with a disability because of that student's need for special education or related aids and services. All appropriate services will be provided for students with disabilities who meet the federally- established eligibility criterion for such services. Enrollment policies described elsewhere in this charter petition are consistent with the mission of NSCS and civil rights requirements. The nondiscriminatory policy will be stated on the school's website, applications, advertisements, etc.

LRE Requirements

NSCS will provide special education and related services to eligible NSCS students in the Least Restrictive Environment (LRE), educating students with disabilities with their non-disabled peers to the maximum extent appropriate. Related services may include (but is not limited to) Positive Behavior Interventions, Adaptive Technologies, Extended School Year, etc. This will be in accordance with the Idaho Special Education Manual, PL94-142, and as identified on each student's IEP. In many cases, the LRE will be specified within NSCS. In rare cases, the LRE might be an alternative site, depending on the needs of each student. NSCS will provide assessments to admitted students as required, meeting individual student needs and IDEA requirements. LRE decisions are made individually for each student. The student's goals and required services are developed prior to the determination of the location of services and settings. The services and settings needed by each student with a disability must be based on the student's unique needs that result from his or her disability, not on the student's category of disability.

DUAL ENROLLMENT

NSCS students will be allowed to participate in dual enrollment with other schools, as required by Idaho Code 33- 203. Dual enrollment is subject to school district policy and procedures, as allowed in Idaho Code 33- 203. Information concerning dual enrollment options and requirements will be provided to parents annually through the student/parent handbook.