

Citywide Special Program for Students with Social Emotional and Behavioral Needs (SPAN)

This citywide special education program serves Minneapolis Public Schools (MPS) students from grade six to grade twelve with significant educational needs related to significant social emotional and behavioral needs. Individuals appropriate for this specialized citywide program are those who require a higher level of special education services than can be provided in the student's community or home school.

Characteristics of Students:

These students have received special education services in their home school but their needs require more intensive special education services than can be provided. The students placed in the SPAN classrooms are in need of a highly-structured educational setting and individualized instruction.

Program Description:

SPAN classrooms are highly structured special education classrooms that provide individualized instruction in a small group setting. A highly-structured, proactive approach to teaching appropriate social and classroom behavior is employed in the classroom. Behavior management techniques are based on behavioral principles that are supported by research. Students are taught using the general education curriculum. Based on student's needs this curriculum is modified or alternative curriculum is used when necessary. Academic instruction is individualized for students. Behavior curriculum is a direct instruction approach to teaching appropriate behavior. Some examples include:

Second Step - Transitioning to middle school can be tough. The research-based Second Step program helps schools teach and model essential communication, coping, and decision-making skills that help adolescents navigate around common pitfalls such as peer pressure, substance abuse, and bullying (both in-person and online). The outcome? Reduced aggression and support for a more inclusive environment that helps students stay in school, make good choices, and experience social and academic success.

School Connect - The program consists of four modules based on the Social and Emotional Learning Competencies (SEL) identified by researchers as critical to success in school, the workplace, and life in general: social awareness, self-awareness, self-management, relationship skills, and responsible decision making.