WE BELIEVE THAT EVERY STUDENT CAN LEARN AND SUCCEED
The Collaborative for Educational Services has been providing leadership in special education since 1974, designing student programs and supports for learners with diverse and highly individualized needs. CES programs are approved by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

**HEC ACADEMY** is a public day special education program that offers a learning community for high school students with social, emotional, or behavioral challenges; learning disabilities and/or autism spectrum disorder. We offer a structured, consistent, emotionally supportive environment based on positive reinforcement. Students work individually and in small groups on academics, social skills, recreation and community service, and earn credits towards high school graduation from their sending schools. We work to provide our students with the tools, knowledge, and support they need to fully reach their potential, in school and in the community at large.

**OUR APPROACH**

**AT HEC ACADEMY, WE BELIEVE IN THE INHERENT POTENTIAL AND CAPACITY OF OUR STUDENTS TO LEARN, GROW, AND DEVELOP TO THE BEST OF THEIR ABILITY.** To accomplish this, we provide a learning community that offers a broad range of evidence-based academic and therapeutic supports for our students that are strength-focused, empowering and restorative in nature.

We provide all of our students at HEC Academy with:

**ACADEMIC SUPPORT AND DIFFERENTIATED LEARNING WITH A HANDS-ON APPROACH**

**PBIS: A STRENGTHS-BASED AND POSITIVE BEHAVIORAL INTERVENTION AND SUPPORT SYSTEM**

**1:1 CHROMEBOOKS AND ACCESS TO ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY FOR STUDENTS**

**A DUAL-ENROLLMENT PROGRAM AT HOLYOKE COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

We believe that academic, personal, and social growth requires a **COMMUNITY COMMITMENT TO SOCIAL JUSTICE**
THERAPEUTIC SERVICES

AT HEC ACADEMY OUR THERAPEUTIC SERVICES ARE HIGHLY INDIVIDUALIZED AND RESPONSIVE TO THE UNIQUE SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL NEEDS OF EACH STUDENT.

All students at the Academy have access to mental health professionals, licensed social workers, art therapists, and clinical interns. An integrated therapeutic team of highly qualified specialists including speech, physical therapy, occupational therapy, vision-orientation and mobility, adapted physical education, and assistive technology/augmentative communication is available to students based on their Individualized Education Program (IEP).

HEC Academy’s team of specialists work closely with our teachers, paraprofessionals, and classroom personnel as well as with families, meeting regularly for an integrated approach to each student’s needs.

“The redesign and implementation of the therapeutic program in the school has had a profoundly positive impact on those students placed there directly from the public school setting. In addition, the collaboration between the educators and the clinical providers serves to facilitate student growth in a global manner beyond just moving them toward graduation. The “icing on the cake” is the additional outreach to families and community-based providers that further facilitates student growth and success. I honestly feel that HEC ACADEMY HAS BECOME ONE OF THE STRONGEST PROGRAMS IN THE PIONEER VALLEY FOR STUDENTS WITH AN EMOTIONAL DISABILITY.”

STUDENT SNAPSHOT

TESSA SANTOR is the first member of her family to graduate high school, and she has always dreamed of going to college.

“My middle school and high school years were very difficult, with a lot of setbacks. As a freshman, I was determined to drop out of school once I turned 16. I had a hard time finding a place where I felt comfortable. I really did not think that I would be able to make it to graduation day. Then I came to HEC Academy and THROUGH THE SUPPORT OF MANY TEACHERS AND STAFF, I WAS ABLE TO REALIZE MY POTENTIAL. I have maintained a good GPA, and just last year, I interned at The Arbors Retirement Community in Amherst, and created wonderful relationships with residents there. I have also helped the school maintain a safe space for other students, and welcomed new students into the community.”

Tessa was instrumental in the development of an innovative hands-on parenting experience project at HEC Academy. She has decided to study nursing, and eventually become a midwife. Tessa graduated with her high school diploma in June, 2016. Says Tessa: “HEC has helped me to realize that I am an important human being and that I have a lot of potential.”
IS HEC ACADEMY A MATCH FOR MY STUDENT?

HEC Academy provides programming for up to 36 high school students. Academy students are individuals who: are in grades 9-12 and test within the average range on psychoeducational evaluations; have IEPs in place from their sending districts; and, who are diagnosed with emotional disabilities, health impairments, learning disabilities, and/or autism spectrum disorder. Our students have had difficulty experiencing and achieving the success of which they are capable, and have demonstrated the need for more intensive levels of academic, social, and emotional support than most public schools can provide. We serve students from Franklin, Hampden, Hampshire, Worcester, and Berkshire counties in Massachusetts.

REFERRING STUDENTS TO HEC ACADEMY

Students are screened and evaluated for possible enrollment in CES programs at the request of the special education department in the student’s local public school district. Parents who are interested in our special education programs should contact their local school system’s special education director.

CES Schools and services prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, sex, gender identity, religion, national origin, or sexual orientation and ensures that all students have equal rights of access and equal enjoyment of the opportunities, advantages, privileges, and courses of study.

Public school administrators wishing more information may contact the Special Education Office:

Director of Special Education
Sherry L. Smith, M.Ed.
228 Pleasant Street
Northampton, MA 01060
413.588.5260 Direct Line
413.586.4900 Main Office
ssmith@collaborative.org

“From the very initial referral of a student with significant emotional and behavioral challenges...the Academy staff was CHILD CENTERED, PATIENT, AND PROFESSIONAL in every sense of the word. It is only because of the Academy’s highly trained and competent staff as well as their FLEXIBLE APPROACH TO SOLVING PROBLEMS did this student achieve a high school diploma...and has the opportunity at a better life.”

— Pioneer Valley Regional School District