

Affective Needs Center Program

The Affective Needs (AN) Center Program is designed to build relationships in a safe and consistent academic environment.

These programs cater to students who frequently exhibit behavior challenges and need more structure and time to develop school-ready behaviors. The goal of AN programs is to help these students rebuild trust while ensuring they feel safe and comfortable at school.

These programs are specialized classrooms located within regular school buildings across the district and serve as part of Jeffco's continuum of placement options for students in special education. They offer intensive support, additional resources, and a focus on individualized needs for various students.

Jeffco's AN Center Programs use the [Colorado Department of Education's SED Quality Indicators](#) .

Who are Affective Needs Programs for?

In AN programs we focus on building relationships in a safe and consistent environment within an academic setting. Students who come to AN programs have frequently had behavior challenges in their previous setting, and require more structure and time to build school-ready behaviors. Students will rebuild trust that school is a safe place. Within this program we support students with behavioral needs, no matter their identification.

Specifically, only students whose Individualized Education Program (IEP) identifies placement within a center program can receive support through these programs.

Students cannot be enrolled by families or transferred by administrators without this IEP designation, and a Director or Assistant Director of special education must be involved in placement change decisions. Importantly, most students can be supported in their neighborhood schools and do not require center programming.

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How Do Affective Needs Programs Serve Students?

Students in Affective Needs programs are served through a multi-faceted approach focusing on both academic and social-emotional growth. Key aspects of how the program serves students include:

+ **Adult Support**

Each program is staffed with an additional learning specialist (SPED teacher), additional Mental Health support, and additional para-educators.

+ **Alternatives to Suspension**

Various options are available to address negative behaviors before or instead of resorting to suspension.

+ **Family Engagement**

Families are connected with the school team and community resources, receive daily communication, and are intended to feel welcomed, valued, and connected to the school community.

+ **Grade-Level Instruction**

Students receive standards-driven instruction at their grade level, either in the general education classroom or the Center Program.

+ **Individualized Behavior Intervention Plans**

Students have a Behavior Intervention Plan (BIP) developed from a Functional Behavior Assessment (FBA). The program teaches and reinforces functionally equivalent behaviors.

+ Individualized Programming

Center programs adapt as needed to meet individual student needs. As students' skills advance, their services may be pushed into the students' general education classroom or small groups with other students, and supervision may decrease.

+ Integration into General Education

Time spent in the general education classroom is individualized based on student needs, similar to any student with an IEP, and is not considered a privilege. AN teams collaborate with general education teachers to build relationships and maximize integration opportunities with typical peer models.

+ Modeling and Reinforcement of School-Ready Skills

The program models, teaches, and reinforces skills necessary for school success through integration into the general education classroom. These skills include:

- Safely expressing needs with decreasing adult support.
 - Accepting responsibility by learning to apologize and show empathy for problem-solving.
 - Self-regulation through practicing appropriate responses to frustrating situations.
 - Following classroom routines and instructions by responding appropriately to expectations and completing schoolwork.
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+ Positive Behavior Focus

The program reinforces positive behavior through encouragement, rewards, and privileges. Students receive frequent, quantifiable feedback on their behaviors, tracked daily as points, which can lead to increased privileges and less supervision.

+ Research-Based Interventions

Daily instruction incorporates research-based social and emotional interventions.

+ Specialized Academic Support

Students with IEPs receive any specialized academic instruction they require primarily within the Center Program.

+ Teaching Social and Emotional Skills

Jeffco emphasizes teaching students social and emotional skills while ensuring they progress with grade-level academic standards.

+ Trauma-Informed Practices and De-escalation

Staff members receive professional learning on trauma-informed practices and de-escalation strategies.

Affective Needs (AN) Resources

- [Colorado Department of Education's SED Quality Indicators](#) 
- [SED Resources - Colorado Department of Education \(CDE\)](#) 

Contact Us

Special Education

Special Education Community Support Line: 303-982-6682

Child Find Intake: 303-982-7247

Records Request: spedrecords@jeffco.k12.co.us
(<mailto:spedrecords@jeffco.k12.co.us>)