

About the BLC

The Beaverton School District's *Behavior Learning Centers* are specialized programs that serve students with emotional and behavioral needs. These students may have a variety of different eligibilities, diagnoses, and behaviors.

The BLC serves provides several important functions. These are;

- A. Specially Designed Instruction
- B. Emotional & Behavioral Accommodations
- C. Mainstreaming Support

The BLC Philosophy

THE BLC IS AN ACADEMIC PROGRAM: The BLC is set up so that student's can access as much of their mainstream education as possible while making both academic and social progress. It is the primary intention that the BLC will provide the supports necessary so students can progress academically. The district expectation is that it looks and functions as much like a regular classroom as possible.

THE BLC IS AN INCLUSION PROGRAM: BLC students are mainstreamed into regular classes as much as possible. Students do not *earn* the right to access the mainstream, they access it as much as their behavior will allow. Students attend special programs, and (in middle and high school) transition between classes. We provide a number of supports to help students in this environment, sometimes including staff support in classes.

THE BLC IS USES A POSITIVE AND PROACTIVE APPROACH TO MANAGING BEHAVIOR

BLC programs utilize a positive approach towards encouraging appropriate behavior and teaching relevant social and emotional skills. Our approach towards classroom management is positive, proactive and collaborative.

WE TEACH SKILLS: The BLC is a program which helps students develop social and emotional skills. BLCs teach curriculums of skills based on their student's needs and abilities to help students develop more adaptive skills.

WE BELIEVE IN RELATIONSHIPS: The BLC is a place where students can develop healthy relationships with educational staff. The small student-teacher ratio and the support of instructional assistants helps students develop relationships and get individualized assistance. We believe that having a good rapport with our students is a precondition to their success. We also believe in

having ongoing communication with parents and regular education teachers in our building. Our ability to liaison with teachers is a major factor in helping our students be successful in mainstream.

WE ARE A TEAM: The BLC is not just a teacher, but a team consisting of the teacher, paraprofessionals, school psychologists, facilitators, administrators and other specialists. BLC teachers receive and incorporate consultation from a variety of places. Our programs are not islands: they are integrated with the rest of the building and with district. Program consultation is designed to build healthy programs that serve the needs of students and create effective learning environments. Our consultation model helps create programs that are grounded in best practice principles. Consultation helps maintain the integrity of our program over time, and through changes in staff, students and administration. Programs receive consultation from many different sources.