



Plum Borough
School District

**SECONDARY
LIFE SKILLS
CLASSROOM
OVERVIEW
2015-16
SCHOOL YEAR**

What is Life Skills?

- A program which provides specially designed instruction to students whose identified needs are those of independent living
- These needs are in the areas of self care, money management, language skills, social advocacy, vocational skills, time management, workplace skills, behavior management, and motor skills.

Benefits

- ◉ Designed to meet specific needs of secondary students who need a more intensive level of support
- ◉ Smaller class size
- ◉ More intensive social skills training and behavioral structures
- ◉ Lower teacher-to-student ratio
- ◉ Still able to be included in General Education settings with typical peers
- ◉ Less out of district placements allowing the district to maintain the students education

Historical Data

Plum Borough School District

Students with an Autistic or Intellectual Disability in Outside Placements:

- 2012 - 22 students
- 2013 - 27 students
- 2014 - 19 students

Reasons for Outside Placements Declining:

- PBSB created our own ESY Program after the 2011-12 school year to educate more students on site during the summer
- We created a more rigorous protocol and criteria for reviewing and reevaluating students prior to making an outside placement referral

Reasons for Outside Placements Declining:

- The District collaborates with educational and behavioral consultants to review interventions/strategies and add supplemental aids and services before moving to a more restrictive environment
- 11 students either moved or graduated after last school year and only 3 new students were placed

Reasons for Outside Placements Declining:

No. of Students in Outside Placements in 2011-12: **63**

No. of Students Currently in Outside Placements for 2014-15: **40**

As a result of building programs and supports within the district, we are able to educate more of our Plum students in their LRE with their peers.

Tuition for Students in Outside Placements with Autism and Intellectual Disabilities:

- 2012-13 \$768,694 (22 students)
- 2013-14 \$992,174 (27 students)
- 2014-15 \$674,908 (19 students)

NOTE: Tuition rates do not include transportation and related services costs

Additional Concerns with Outside Placements:

- PBSB does not have full control over the students' education or have daily contact with the students and families
- Additional costs not included in tuition are paraprofessionals, transportation, and other ala cart services like behavioral consults, OT/PT, and Speech services
- Students are not connected with their like peers on a daily basis and rooted in their community schools

Secondary Life Skills Classroom Overview:

Grade Range:

- 7th - 12th Grades in the 2015-16 school year
- Parent Waivers can be offered to accommodate a range of grades larger than 3 years
- Students from Oblock could be included in the classroom

Secondary Life Skills Classroom Overview:

Location:

- PHS
- 1 Classroom
- 1 Sensory Room located near the classroom

Secondary Life Skills Classroom Overview:

Needs:

- Highly Qualified Staff
- Professional Development
- Curriculum
- Materials
- Consultation

Secondary Life Skills Classroom Overview:

Needs:

- Highly Qualified Staff
 - Special Education teacher trained in Autism and Life Skills methodology
 - Paraprofessional
 - Autism/Behavior Consultant - Staged
 - Best Buddies Program student volunteers

Secondary Life Skills Classroom Overview:

Needs:

- Professional Development
 - Training needed for staff
 - Training needed for PHS staff due to inclusion of students
 - Training needed on ABA curriculum used
 - Training needed for student helpers (Best Buddies)

Secondary Life Skills Classroom Overview:

Needs:

○ Materials

- Sensory Room Materials
- iPads - Classroom Set
- Life Skills materials (independent living)

○ Consultation

- Tiered Consultation: 2 weeks in August, 12 days/month through March, 4 days/month through June

Secondary Life Skills Classroom Overview:

Estimated Costs:

- Autism & Behavior Consultation: \$27,000
- Sensory Room & Supplies: \$10,000
- Classroom Start-up
Materials & Curriculum: \$10,000
- Paraprofessional* TBD
- Life Skills Classroom Teacher* TBD

**Need to hire these positions would depend on rosters for next school year - may be absorbed by redistributing current staff*

Secondary Life Skills Classroom Overview:

- Possible Outside Placement Students in Grades 6-11 Who *Could* Return: **13**
- Current PBSO Students in Grades 6-11 Who *Could* Be Considered: **8**

Secondary Life Skills Classroom Overview:

- Average tuition per student in outside placements:

\$36,000/year

without transportation & related services costs

Questions?

Thank you for your time and consideration.