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Our Schools

The support to help every student achieve

Northern Rivers Family of Services has served the children, adults, and families of New York state since 1829 with a continuum of home-, clinic-, school-, and community-based, vocational rehabilitative, supported employment, and senior- supporting programs that provide person-centered, trauma-informed solutions to ensure clients live their best lives.

Neil Hellman School

Neil Hellman School provides students in grades 1–12 with integrated educational services 46 weeks per year and clinical services 52 weeks per year. The school is certified as a special education facility (an 853 school) by the NYS Education Department. The school serves residential and day students with serious emotional, behavioral, and learning challenges. Staff members provide therapeutic, educational, and vocational services to empower students to reach their maximum potential using hands-on, alternative, and experiential teaching methods in conjunction with traditional instruction to ensure student success.

School at Northeast

The School at Northeast is a coed special educational program for up to 150 students in grades 6–12. The school is certified as a special education facility (and 853 school) by the NYS Department of Education. Students served may be residential or day treatment program participants and typically cope with multiple issues including educational disabilities, family instability, emotional trauma, delinquency, mental illness, truancy, and substance abuse. The school offers a full curriculum in structured and supportive learning environment, providing students with a variety of academic, recreational, and vocational opportunities.

Early Learning Center

Neil Hellman Preschool is a multiservice early childhood center for children ages 3–5, located at the Parsons Early Learning Center at 125 Bigelow Avenue in Schenectady. There are five classrooms including three integrated classrooms (special education and regular education combined), one self-contained classroom, and one day-care classroom. Each classroom is staffed with a highly trained teacher and assistant. Special education classrooms include highly trained special education teachers. Staff follow a developmentally appropriate curriculum to ensure quality care and learning is achieved. Children are screened for social and emotional issues as well as for developmental issues. The program refers children to appropriate services as needed.

Early Head Start is a federally funded program for families who are pregnant or have children up to the age of three. The Center is Accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). There is both a home visiting component and a center base (day-care) component. Program staff help parents with the changes and needs of their family that come along with having a small child. The parent learns ways to help their child meet all milestones, including helping the family ensure the child is healthy, developmentally on target, and ready for the world. School readiness, including literacy, is a major component of the Early Head Start program.