



# COMPASS

## THE COMPASS SCHOOL

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## **Program Summary:**

### ***What makes the COMPASS School unique?***

- The COMPASS School is a private special education day school that serves elementary, middle, and high school students ages 6-22. The COMPASS School works with students with a wide range of emotional, behavioral, and learning disabilities. The students are referred from different public school districts in the Greater Boston area. For our students, school has been a struggle and has not been a consistent, positive experience. Our committed staff help to change the school experience for our students and help them engage in their education.

### ***Keys to Our Educational Approach***

- Develop outstanding educational, vocational, and support services
- Collaborate with other organizations to increase the resources available to each individual and his/her family
- A diverse staff whose competence, compassion, and commitment are evident in our client-centered approach and interdisciplinary teamwork
- Employ a wide range of teaching methods centered on students' distinct learning-styles
- Provide a challenging, individualized curriculum and instruction that addresses the clinical, behavioral, and academic needs of our students



#### ***Clinical Component***

Clinicians provide individual and group counseling with all students. It is essential that all staff members understand the social, emotional, and psychological needs of the students. Services are organized to give continuous assistance to each student, in knowing himself/herself as an individual and as a member of society. Staff are able to provide these services by gathering comprehensive information and developing Functional Behavioral Assessments. COMPASS also utilizes a behavior management system (BEAMS) that provides a holistic approach to building skills that lead toward transitioning students to a less restrictive setting.



#### ***Behavioral Component***

Staff members provide a safe and nurturing environment in which students can grow and learn. While caseworkers may be the backbone of our behavioral system, the behavioral work with students starts in the classroom with teachers and is supported by clinical and support staff. It is essential that all staff members provide consistency in implementing school rules and expectations when working with students. Through the BEAMS comprehensive system of rewards, we provide safety and structure that helps to develop new skills and to discourage negative behaviors.



#### ***Academic Component***

The educational component of COMPASS provides students with access to the general curriculum and strives to ensure that they reach their highest academic potential. Increased literacy and academic remediation are essential to the educational component of COMPASS. Teachers develop curriculum guided by the Massachusetts curriculum frameworks and implement lesson plans in compliance with each student's Individualized Education Program (IEP). In addition to the state mandated MCAS testing, students may also participate in district-wide testing. Teachers use a variety of strategies that provide differentiated learning opportunities for students, such as multi-sensory curriculum that incorporates remedial work, computer assisted learning, real-life activities, cooperative learning, multicultural learning, and hands-on lessons.