

# Working Together to Find Solutions to Engage All Learners



# EDUCATING and EMPOWERING all LEARNERS through Partnership and Collaboration

Assabet Valley Collaborative (AVC) provides unique, high-quality services to empower students, families, and districts to overcome obstacles and achieve their goals. Our licensed and experienced educators and related staff are ready to support students with social/emotional, intellectual, and/or physical needs. Our dedicated and well-trained clinicians and therapists are ready to help families find the resources they need to care for their children and partner with schools in achieving goals. Our highly-qualified specialists support districts in partnering, researching, and evaluating systems to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of our districts in supporting the learning of all students.

AVC takes a multi-dimensional approach to promoting student success, family support and community integration. Through partnership and collaboration, we pool resources, identify needs and create programs to effectively and efficiently support and address the evolving needs of our students, their families, and our districts. Our services are in the categories of school programs, consultation services, and district collaboration.

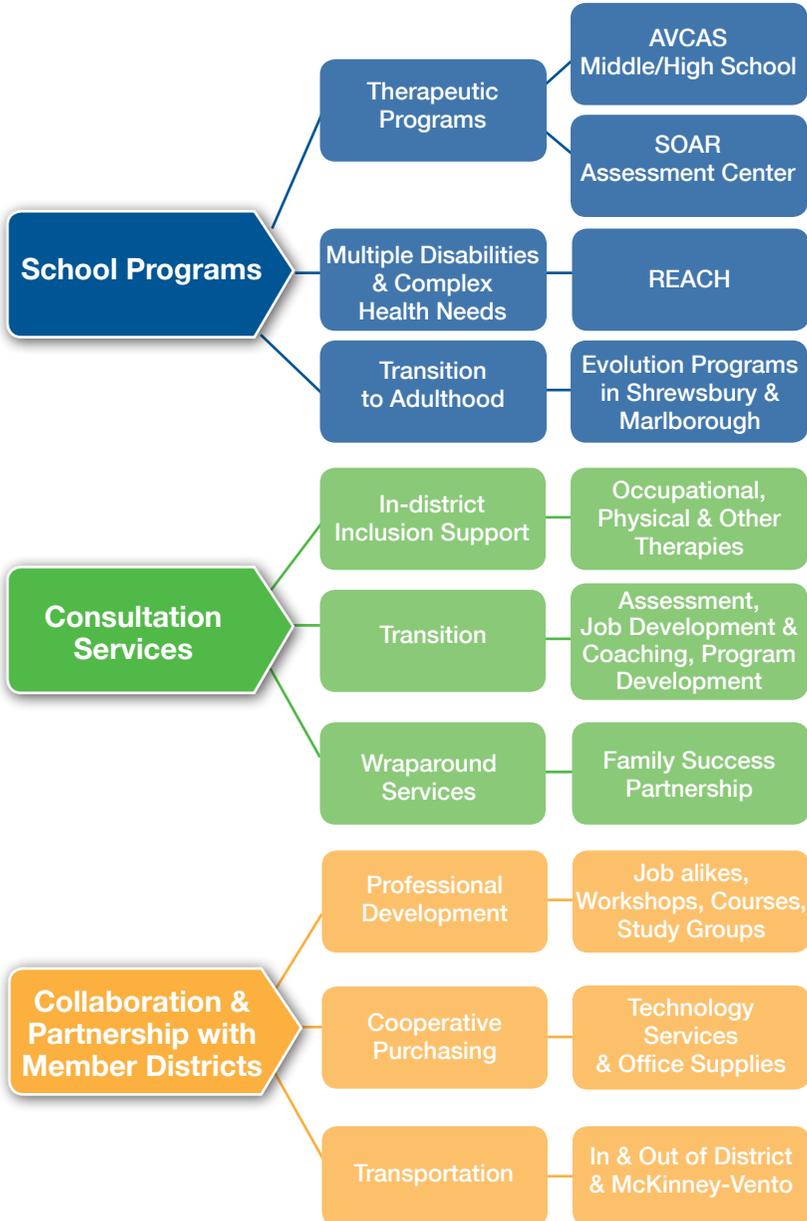


Learn How  
AVC Can  
Support You

“Alone we can do so little;  
together we can do so much.” - *Helen Keller*



AVC is flexible, responsive, and ever evolving. As the needs of our students, families, and districts change, so do we.



# SCHOOL PROGRAMS

## Therapeutic Programs

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### **AVC Alternative School (AVCAS)**

Our therapeutic day school offers academic rigor and clinical services to students in grades six through twelve who have not made progress in a traditional school setting. With a strong emphasis on academics, clinical services, expressive arts, vocational supports and high-interest electives, our school supports students in overcoming challenges related to their mental and behavioral health in order to achieve individualized goals.

- Small instructional groups led by master's level professionals
- Integration of academics, expressive therapy and transition skills
- Tiered behavioral support model builds skills and relationships

### **SOAR Assessment Center**

This assessment center collaborates closely with parents and districts to identify appropriate academic and clinical supports for middle and high school-aged students with social/emotional difficulties. We help teams better understand the skills and needs of our students to identify supports and strategies that will enable our students to progress in the least restrictive environment.

- Customized educational and clinical assessments
- Individualized academic and clinical services
- Comprehensive reports and recommendations

## **Serving Students with Multiple Disabilities including Complex Health Needs**

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### **REACH**

The Assabet Valley Collaborative REACH program provides a multi-disciplinary approach to meet the varied and complex academic, therapeutic and healthcare needs of students with multiple disabilities between the ages of 5 and 18. REACH infuses social communication throughout programming with a particular emphasis on assistive technology and augmentative communication.

- Embedded Speech/Language, Physical, Occupational, Vision and Music Therapies
- Comprehensive nursing support
- Inclusion opportunities with typical peers

## **Transition to Adulthood**

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### **Evolution** (*Shrewsbury & Marlborough*)

The Assabet Valley Collaborative Evolution program is available in our Shrewsbury and Marlborough locations. This transition program is designed for students aged 18–22 who continue to be eligible for educational services as they transition to adulthood. Evolution blends educational opportunities within real-world settings in the community.

- Transition assessment, job development and job coaching
- Community-based instruction – travel training, fitness, college, shopping, recreation
- School-based instruction – healthy relationships, cooking, finance, laundry, hygiene

# CONSULTATION SERVICES

Assabet Valley Collaborative Consultation Services offers our member districts expertise and assistance to address the wide-ranging needs of students and families. We provide your students with essential support, whether it be academic, physical or emotional. Together, we can improve and enhance your programming to meet the ever-changing needs of your students.



- Highly-trained staff
- Programs are designed to specifically address students' needs
- Plans are collaborative and flexible

## In-District Inclusion Support

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AVC employs highly-skilled specialists who are contracted by districts to support students who are included in their local schools. Our inclusion supports include providing ongoing services directly to students, conducting assessments and evaluations, developing and implementing individual and group programs, and providing consultation to district staff, parents or teams.

- Occupational Therapy and Physical Therapy – embedded, individual, group and program
- Psychiatric Consultation – medication awareness, accessing resources, crisis guidance

## Transition

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A new service at AVC, we employ transition specialists and job coaches to support our districts in improving the services they provide in-district to students in various stages of transitioning to adulthood. Our team can provide services directly to students or to support our districts' staff members in building their capacity to serve students. This service is customizable to districts' needs.

- Transition/vocational assessments, interest inventories, job development, job coaching
- Training of staff, program evaluation, program development

## Wraparound Services

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### Family Success Partnership

Our Family Success Partnership (FSP) program provides wraparound services, uniting families with the resources that are beyond the scope of the traditional school setting, to meet the needs of students within their communities. We partner with families to create a strengths-based, comprehensive plan that is best suited to each student and family. By connecting families with community-based resources to address their unmet academic, social/emotional, or medical needs we are able to fill the gaps to provide a plan that improves each student's opportunity for success.

- Help families coordinate insurance coverage and collaboration with school services
- Connect families with community resources such as counseling, legal representation and housing
- Consult with school staff to integrate recommendations and support student's needs

# COLLABORATION & PARTNERSHIP WITH MEMBER DISTRICTS

## Professional Development

AVC is committed to meeting the professional development needs identified by its member districts through job-alikes, workshops and courses, and study groups. Our specialized professional development connects districts to each other for initiatives in common, provides an economy of scale to reduce costs and distance for high priority or mandatory training, and customizes workshops to meet the specific needs of districts.

- Specialized and customized training
- Workshops and study groups for educators, administrators, and paraeducators
- Google Certified Trainer

## Cooperative Purchasing

AVC is dedicated to continuously improving efficiencies and finding cost savings through joint procurement with our fifteen member districts. Through collective volume purchasing and a streamlined bidding process, our participating school departments attain the best possible pricing from vendors on technology services, office supplies and paper, bread and rolls and other items.

## Transportation

AVC provides safe, reliable and cost-efficient special education transportation services by contracting with transportation vendors on behalf of our member school districts. AVC views transportation as an integral part of each student's education and seeks to contract with vendors that share our passion and expertise in serving students with disabilities. Our contract requires vendors to employ highly-trained drivers and monitors that drive newer, clean and well-equipped vehicles to transport more than 275 students annually. Districts save money by purchasing transportation services through AVC, but they also benefit from flexibility, individualization, and expertise.

- Monitored two-way radios, GPS, and video monitoring
- Pre-screened, specially-trained drivers and monitors
- In-district, out-of-district, McKinney-Vento, field trips and after-school services





# MISSION

Assabet Valley Collaborative partners with students, families and member school districts to deliver highly-specialized expertise and resources to foster empowerment of all learners.

## AVC SUCCESS STORIES

### **AVC Student honored as United Way Tri-County Volunteer of the Year**

Gabby has been working in the CHAPS Preschool Program in Hudson, Massachusetts. She has volunteered over 200 hours with preschool students ages 2.9-5 years old. During this time Gabby has worked hard to grasp the natural cues/supports in the school environment. She is able to work independently, take initiative to set up snacks, sweep, wipe the tables, set up games/puzzles and sits down with the students and engages with them. The staff says you can always find Gabby sitting on the carpet playing and smiling with the children. It is normal practice to see her with a book and a few children sitting with her looking at her as a mentor.

With all her hard work Gabby was nominated by CHAPS and received United Way's Volunteer of the Year Award! We are so proud of her. The United Way's Volunteer of the Year Award recognizes local do-gooders for their commitment to volunteerism and passion for creating positive change in the community.

“*Quotes from CHAPS staff:*

“Gabby wants to be here and be a part of our team. She is eager to learn more about how to be helpful within the classroom. She is an asset to us!”

“Gabby is outgoing, funny and is always happy when she is here. She is always willing to help with anything we do.”

“Gabby takes direction well and is eager to complete the tasks we give her well. She wants to make everyone happy.” ”

### **Evolution students successfully complete computer class**

Through AVC's Evolution program, Liam and Dolly had the opportunity to take part in a Microsoft Office class at Quinsigamond Community College. This four-week course introduced them to Microsoft Word, Publisher, Excel and PowerPoint. Students created a number of projects including birthday cards, posters and were given the opportunity to present a PowerPoint presentation that they created on a topic of their choice. The dedication and hard work that these students put into this class exceeded all expectations. It is our hope that more students will be able to take on this challenge and succeed the way Liam and Dolly did.

Providing effective and efficient services to meet current  
and evolving needs of member school districts:

Assabet Valley Region • Berlin/Boylston Region • Berlin • Boylston  
Grafton • Hudson • Marlborough • Maynard • Millbury  
Nashoba Region • Northborough • Northborough/Southborough Region  
Southborough • Shrewsbury • Westborough

Learn how  
we can partner to make  
significant and lasting  
change for our students.

**CONTACT US TODAY**  
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