

REACH

We give ALL learners ages 5-18 years the opportunity to REACH their full potential.

Working Together for LASTING RESULTS

REACH provides a nurturing environment through open communication between students, staff and parents to help foster student-centered, strengths-based services to impact learning at school and transitioning to all aspects of their daily life.

We provide the least restrictive environment to maximize opportunities for inclusion for special learners with general education students within the community.

We believe REACH students and general education students mutually and significantly benefit from inclusion in the school and local communities.

Our programs emphasize building communication skills and meaningful social interactions.

Our programming is highly individualized for each student and includes both inclusion within our host schools and reverse inclusion.

Our work with students results in small **SUCCESSES** and life-changing **TRIUMPHS**.



The Assabet Valley Collaborative REACH program provides a multi-disciplinary approach to meet the varied and challenging academic, therapeutic and healthcare needs of students ages 5-18 years with significant intellectual impairments. We help families navigate and utilize the complex array of services available to each student.

Discover the opportunities for all learners through our programs and services

REACH provides comprehensive educational programming for children ages five to 18 with significant global delays and medical needs. We utilize an integrated and embedded therapy model and a transdisciplinary approach to ensure that each student is engaged in active and meaningful learning. We offer a 180-day school-year program and a six-week extended school-year program in the summer. The REACH program comprises four classrooms that are housed in age-appropriate schools within our member districts.

REACH I (ages 5-8), Southborough

REACH II (ages 9-13), Trottier Middle School in Southborough

REACH III (ages 14-16) and REACH IV (ages 17-18), Algonquin Regional High School, Northborough

Each classroom is staffed by a Special Education Teacher, Registered Nurse, and one paraeducator for every two students.

Therapies/Services

- Communication therapy
- Occupational therapy
- Physical therapy
- Vision services
- Music therapy
- Assistive technology and health care
- Animal-assisted activities
- We offer bi-monthly, community-based instruction opportunities for students in REACH III/IV

Embedded therapies consist of consultative program development including staff training, mentoring, therapeutic-handling techniques, transfer training as well as equipment evaluations and ongoing student evaluations.

A Unique Curriculum Created for our Unique Learners

A transdisciplinary approach is utilized to develop students' access and entry-level skills to the Mass Curriculum frameworks through the use of curriculum that is specifically designed for students with moderate to severe intellectual disabilities. There is a strong emphasis on the development of communication, motor, and social skills across environments and throughout the day. Age-appropriate life skills and transition skills are addressed with students along with multi-sensory and data-driven instruction. Additionally, our students participate in the MCAS Alternate Assessment in which data and evidence are collected and compiled into a portfolio.

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NOTE FROM OUR DIRECTOR

Our REACH staff understand that one of the keys to student success is collaboration...among program based team members, families, the medical community, state and local agencies and resources. It is through these collaborative relationships that continuity and consistency of supports and services to students occur thus enabling our students to be an engaged participant in all areas of their lives.

*-Karen Laskey
Director of Satellite Programs*



REACH students are an integral part of the Trottier School community.

“Over the years, the Reach II Program has become an irreplaceable part of our school community.

Our students have gained real-life appreciation for people with disabilities that can't be found on a website or in a textbook. The connections are genuine and the benefits are life-changing.

Learning goes beyond the classroom at Trottier. When our students build relationships with disabled peers they build empathy, patience, and an appreciation for people of all abilities.”

“I'm writing to express my sincere thanks and appreciation for the wonderful IEP meeting and to specially thank each and every one of you for the education and support given to my son. May you all be richly empowered to continue to do an amazing job for our special children.”
- parent of REACH student

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Collaboration between home and school is key to students achieving their goals. Home visits are a great way to support our families in carrying over student goals into the home and community. Home visits are designed to meet the specific needs of each family with the appropriate school staff attending which might be OT, PT, Special Educator, Nurse, Teacher of the Visually Impaired, or BCBA.

Students in the REACH III/IV program participate in community-based instruction two times a month. This facilitates the carryover and generalization of skills being taught into the community.

Our OT and PT are able to work with companies that come directly to the programs for wheelchair modifications and prosthetic devices such as AFO's and hand splints.

Partnerships

REACH II students receive a visit every other week from a therapy dog from Pets & People Foundation. We have found that this is a great motivator for many students to work on their communication and motor goals.

Collaboration is critical to student success...weekly team meeting time, use of Google to share documents, home visits, resource navigation, student led IEP's at age 14, student and family input into the IEP, supporting students and families at outside provider appointments.

Our STAFF is the CORNERSTONE of our success

Our highly skilled and experienced staff bring together students, families and districts and help them navigate the complex array of community resources that are available to them. We maintain a high staff-to-student ratio for a more personalized approach to learning. Collaboration and communication are at the core of our programming. Additionally, our staff are well-trained and up-to-date with AAC systems and equipment to promote optimal access for our students and their education needs.

Did you KNOW?

- Our REACH program has a high staff-to-student ratio.
- Families have the ability of having wheelchair modifications and orthotics casting in programs.
- Paraeducators are well prepared and receive on-going training.
- We host relevant workshops for families in the evening. Transportation and daycare are provided if needed.
- We make our REACH classrooms an integral part of the community of the host school.
- Our staff are knowledgeable of available community resources and can assist families in navigating these resources.

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Karen Laskey
Director of Satellite Programs
508-841-1562 • www.avcollaborative.org
klaskey@avcollaborative.org
64 Holden Street • Shrewsbury, MA 01545