

# SOAR

An Extended Evaluation Assessment Program  
for students in grades 6-12.

## Working Together for LASTING RESULTS

- We provide short-term stabilization and diagnostic assessments for students grades 6-12
- We provide data-driven assessments, interventions, and recommendations designed for academic, clinical, and social-emotional success
- Students in the SOAR program participate in evidenced-based clinical practices such as CBT, DBT, and Social Thinking
- Our behavior practices are rooted in ABA, PBIS, and UDL academic design
- Academic, behavioral and clinical support as students transition into a longer-term program

SOAR offers students a platform to DISCOVER new OPPORTUNITIES to identify who they are as LEARNERS.



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 them to progress in the least restrictive environment. We provide:

- Customized educational and clinical assessments
- Individualized academic and clinical services
- Data driven and function based behavioral intervention
- Positive Behavior Intervention and Support (PBIS) framework

## Discover the opportunities for all learners through our programs and services

Housed in the same building as our alternative school, SOAR gives access to services, expertise and facilities not typically offered in short-term assessment programs. We offer individualized tutoring and small-group academic instruction in areas such as comprehensive academic support, music, art, physical education and other electives. SOAR instruction is guided by the curriculum of the student's referring school. Students enrolled in SOAR may have opportunities for integration to provide additional assessment data relevant to factors contributing to the challenges a student is facing. The Coordinator of Assessment & Intervention or Director of Therapeutic Programs links SOAR and sending districts to ensure the implementation of instructional activities and documentation of completed coursework.

Assessments include:

- Social/Emotional Assessment
- FBA & BSP- Functional Behavioral Assessment & Behavior Support Plan
- PT Evaluation
- OT Evaluation
- Speech/Language Evaluation
- Vocational Assessment
- Comprehensive Risk Assessment\*
  - Fire Setting
  - Violence
  - Sexual Offending
- Cognitive Evaluation\*
- Achievement/Academic- Full Battery\*
- Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory- Adolescent (MMPI-A)\*
- Psychiatric Consult- AVC\*

SOAR provides a wide range of elective courses, aligned with curriculum frameworks, that are designed to further engage students in developing skills, interests, and transitional interests. Additionally, students will have an opportunity to access elective courses with the SOAR cohort and/or integrate into existing classes with students enrolled in AVCAS.

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*\* Supplemental subcontract*

## NOTE FROM OUR DIRECTOR



At AVC, we believe that supporting the whole student is essential for helping them to reach their goals. We strive to engage each of our students by connecting what they are learning in school to what is important to them outside of the school day. We strive to take their learning to a level in which they can acquire the skills necessary to be successful as adults in a 21st century society.

It is an honor every day to support the education of our amazing, resilient, and inspiring students.

- Shannon VanderSwaagh  
Director of Therapeutic Programs

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### SOAR Clinical Services

Our formal clinical assessments help assist parents, teachers, and clinicians to develop the most appropriate plan to foster each student's achievement and progress. Upon enrollment, students and families meet individually with clinical staff to complete a structured clinical interview that will help staff identify the social and emotional strengths and areas of needs for each student. All students in the SOAR program participate in individual and group therapy with a specialized focus on CBT and DBT skills such as distress tolerance, emotional regulation, mindfulness, and interpersonal effectiveness.

The SOAR clinical team employs evidence-based practices to best meet the social and emotional needs of individual students and to collect data that will provide meaningful information. This practice allows clinicians to consider multiple theoretical perspectives and to implement a variety of practices and techniques to provide the most comprehensive and effective treatment for each student.

### SOAR Behavior Support Inventions

SOAR provides a structured, therapeutic, educational environment where behavioral supports and intervention are embedded within the school environment. During a student's enrollment at SOAR, clinical and milieu staff perform observations, collect behavioral data, and if beneficial, will conduct a functional behavioral assessment and develop an individualized behavior support plan. Additionally, structured and unstructured assessment tools may be administered with students and families to gather information that may be helpful in answering referral questions.

SOAR follows a structure of reinforcing positive behaviors and choices while establishing deterrents for maladaptive behaviors and choices during the school day. Students earn points for each portion of the school day by participating responsibly and respectfully, and by demonstrating effort on their individual school goals. When students are having difficulty, function based interventions are designed to assist students in adapting their behavior at the earliest intervention point. Our goal is to work with students to find meaningful rewards and consequences to assist them in making productive and positive choices in the school environment.

Our **STAFF** is the  
**CORNERSTONE**  
of our success

Our dedicated staff is here to help your students. Our teachers are graduate level, state-licensed, special educators or content teachers. Additionally, all of our clinical staff are graduate-level, state-licensed clinicians. We employ a full-time School Psychologist, Board-Certified Behavior Analyst and a Consulting Psychiatrist. You can rest assured that your child is in the care of a qualified team of passionate, caring adults.



### Did you **KNOW?**

SOAR offers many unique services such as:

- Expressive therapies and instruction in art and music
- Proactive approach to positive behavioral intervention
- Clinical supports to teach healthy coping skills they can use in school and at home
- Clinical case managers are on hand to offer consistent communication with families, guardians and treatment providers
- Educational opportunities and resources that match each student's individual needs

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