Waterford Country School, Inc.

(Therapeutic Boarding School)

CONTACT

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NATSAP Member
Since: 2017

PROGRAM OUTLINE

Gender: Male, including transgender
Ages: 11 - 18
Grades: 8 - 12
Enrollment: 10
Duration: 1 year
Founded: 1922



Airport: T.F. Green, (PVD)

Waterford Country School has been serving children and families for nearly 100 years. The Therapeutic Boarding Program provides a spectrum of services to youth who cannot be served in their home communities because of special educational and behavioral health needs.

Our evidenced based, trauma informed treatment model, developed by Cornell University, is called CARE (Children and Residential Experiences) and focuses on the relationships between the child and staff. We do not utilize traditional behavioral incentive systems, but instead work with the youth in moments of crisis to determine the cause of the behavior and teach better coping skills. The more a youth struggles the more opportunities we give them to be successful rather than taking opportunities away, as traditional behavioral systems often do.

The Therapeutic Boarding Program was established in 2017 for middle-school and high-school aged boys. The campus is located on 320 acres in a rural area and youth reside and attend school on our grounds. The school also educates approximately 60 day-students from surrounding towns with an average classroom size of 6-8 students with one teacher and one aide in each classroom. We have a farm on our campus with over 80 animals including alpaca, goats, sheep, pigs, horses, birds, reptiles and small mammals. The programm encourages the youth to interact with animals during and after school hours.

We place youth from across the country with a variety of struggles such as anxiety, depression, school avoidance behaviors, high functioning autism, and many more. Some of our youth are placed by school districts and others by parents who self-fund the placement.

Services include individual, group, and family therapy that is strengths based and trauma informed, numerous recreational activities, participation in community athletics, and specialized education in a structured classroom setting. There are many experiential opportunities, both in the classroom and on the farm. Youth are also participants on the Challenge Ropes Course, where teamwork, trust, and personal achievement are the focus. There are also many opportunities for community integration through local events, employment and volunteer opportunities.

Accreditation, Licensure: *State of Connecticut Department of Education; State of Connecticut Department of Children and Families; Council on Accreditation (COA)*
Professional Affiliations: *NATSAP - Full Member; Connecticut Community Non-profit Alliance; The Children's League of Connecticut; Association of Children's Residential Centers (ACRC); Connecticut Council on Administrators of Special Education (ConnCASE); Connecticut Association of Private Education Facilities (CAPSEF)*