

Sonia Shankman Orthogenic School

(Residential Treatment Center)

CONTACT

Executive Contact: Dr. Diana Kon
Admissions Contact: Kristin Friesen, LCSW
Academic Contact: Michelle Zarrilli, M.Ed.
Email: pmyers@oschool.org
Phone: (773) 420-2900
Fax: (773) 420-2805
Address: 6245 S. Ingleside Ave
 Chicago, IL 60637
Website: www.oschool.org

NATSAP Member
Since: 2011

PROGRAM OUTLINE

Gender: All Genders (non-binary)
Ages: 5 - 21
Grades: K - 12
Enrollment: 120
Duration: 12 - 18 months
Founded: 1915



Airport: O'Hare International, (ORD);
 Chicago Midway Int'l Airport (MDW)

Continuing nearly a century of tradition, we at the Orthogenic School - also referred to as the O-School - continue to provide the highest quality of care and education to a maximum of 42 students in our Residential Program and an additional 36 students in our Therapeutic Day School. The O-School distinguishes itself by providing individualized attention to the unique needs of all children who pass through our "Yellow Door." We provide intensive therapeutic milieu treatment for children and adolescents, ages 5 through 21, who struggle with severe emotional challenges and/or high-functioning autism disorders. Our student population is co-ed, regardless of age group, and students arrive from diverse backgrounds. We welcome all sexual orientations and gender identities. We provide a comfortable and nurturing family-like environment staffed by a talented, devoted, and well-educated, multidisciplinary team of professionals. Individual, group, and family therapies are key components of our therapeutic regimen. The culture modeled by our staff allows children to develop healthy and meaningful relationships. We offer a path to hope and achievement as students move toward becoming healthy, happy, productive, and independent young adults. And we help children feel emotionally strong, socially connected, successful in school, and optimistic about their futures.

O-School's success rests on striking a balance between providing supportive residential treatment intervention and offering a strong academic program. Our residential staff members are clinically educated and highly trained. Our direct care staff holds bachelor's degrees or higher, supervisor and managers have master's degrees, and most are clinically licensed. In addition, each student receives regularly scheduled individual, group, and family psychotherapy. We prepare students to succeed educationally and socially so they can return to their local school programs, attend less restrictive therapeutic boarding schools, or transition to post-high school education. At the O-School, we offer departmentalized and college preparatory classes for high school, junior high, and elementary students. Each classroom has the benefit of licensed educators, content area expertise, and instructional technologies. Our curriculum combines strategies for diverse learners with ambitious learning standards, and our consistently low student-to-instructor ratios enable departmentalized instruction across a wide array of content areas. Founded in 1915, our time-tested and well-functioning residential milieu promotes individual autonomy while building a strong sense of community. With the help of our nursing staff, board certified and nationally recognized experts provide quality psychiatric and medical services.

Accreditation, Licensure: Illinois, Department of Children and Family Services; Council on Accreditation (COA); Illinois Department of Human Services; Cognia; Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS)
Professional Affiliations: NATSAP - Full Member; Child Welfare League of America (CWLA); Association of Children's Residential Centers (ACRC); National Association of Private Special Education Centers (NAPSEC); Illinois Association of Private Special Education Centers