

NEIL HELLMAN SCHOOL

Neil Hellman School, an 835 school, provides students in grades 1 through 12 with integrated educational services 46 weeks per year and clinical services 52 weeks per year. The school is certified as a special education facility by the NYS Education Department. The school serves residential and day students with serious emotional, behavioral, and learning challenges. Staff members provide therapeutic, educational, and vocational services to empower students to reach their maximum potential using hands-on, alternative, and experiential teaching methods in conjunction with traditional instruction to ensure student success.

Neil Hellman School operates its programs guided by a Sanctuary® model to develop a sense of community among students and to promote therapeutic learning throughout the school day.

STUDENT PROFILE

Students referred to Neil Hellman School have all been labeled emotionally handicapped by their home school district. Many have various secondary handicapping conditions such as ADD, ADHD, Autism Spectrum Disorders, and learning disabilities. Students have displayed significant behavior/emotional problems in previous educational placements and some have been recently discharged from inpatient hospitalization for psychiatric disorders and require a transitional placement before returning to their home school.

Enriched staff-to-student ratios allow for a supportive environment in which instruction is highly individualized. Staff members meet or exceed certification requirements outlined by the NYS Education Department. Upon admission to Neil Hellman School students are scoring significantly below their peers in standardized achievement tests, as well as those tests required by the Education Department for yearly school report cards. The school's state-of-the-art approach enables students to show substantial gains. Close partnerships with parents and local Committees on Special Education allow students to meet their goals to return to less-restrictive, community educational settings. On average, this occurs in 18 months.

Who can access services? School District Committees on Special Education (CSE) can refer public school aged youths with related handicapping conditions. The NHS is best able to serve youths who live within a 60 mile radius of the facility.

How are services accessed? Call 518.372.9423 ext. 7393. Once a student is referred to the Neil Hellman School by a local educational agency, a comprehensive psycho educational evaluation is completed utilizing academic testing and social/behavioral assessments. The team provides a treatment plan for the youth within 30 days from the date of admission.

What are the services? Special programming provided to students includes:

- Music and art therapy
- Speech and occupational therapy
- Prevocational training/school-to-work placements
- Guidance counseling
- Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS)
- Mediation/conflict resolution strategies