

FEATURED IN THE SEPTEMBER 2021 ISSUE OF

Raising ARIZONA Kids



Local schools help students with special needs THRIVE

RETURNING TO THE CLASSROOM can be daunting for any child after more than a year of virtual learning, but that is particularly true for those with special needs. If your family is looking for a highly structured learning environment designed specifically for students with intensive needs, the Sierra Schools of Arizona may be your answer.

For over 20 years, the private day schools, operated by Specialized Education of Arizona – a state-approved provider of private therapeutic day programs – have served K-12 students with a broad range of academic, behavioral, and social-emotional needs and disabilities.

Featuring small class sizes that enable more individualized attention and a tailored approach to instruction, Sierra Schools attends to students' unique needs across multiple locations, helping them to achieve success and enjoy rewarding futures.

With six schools and programs in Gilbert, Peoria, Scottsdale, Buckeye and Tucson, parents can choose the best one for their child,

whether transferring from a public or charter school or from outside the district.

Additionally, Sierra Schools can serve students in the Empowerment Scholarship Account (ESA) Program – an account administered by the Arizona Department of Education and funded by state tax dollars to provide educational options for qualified students.

Parents can feel confident in their decision to enroll their child at any Sierra School. Staff follow evidence-based practices and interventions, and apply specialized instruction models which allow for academic, behavior and social-emotional support plans aligned with each individual's needs. Related services, such as speech, occupational and physical therapy, are also available.

What about life beyond school? Sierra School transitions students who are looking for a DTA (Day Treatment for Adults) into the next phase of young adulthood by providing a structured day program with personally designed goals and coaching from staff. The program expands

members' repertoire of essential skills in areas like community knowledge, social awareness, personal organization, communication and leisure activities with an emphasis on local community participation.

In the summer, the schools offer extended programming for eligible students – giving families one more aspect of support they can tap into as a result of being enrolled with Sierra Schools.

Sierra Schools are open for enrollment. For more information, or to schedule a tour, visit sischools.com/arizona

The Sierra Schools of Arizona serves students, districts and families in locations across Arizona and is approved by ADE-ESS, Cognia, and the Division of Developmental Disabilities.

