

## Gen. Ed. Report on Meadows Education Center, Brattleboro VT.

Meadows Education Center is a department within the Brattleboro Retreat and is located at the same location as the Retreat.

1. The school's educational philosophy is to offer a safe and compassionate learning environment in which each person may grow. Trust, kindness, and respect govern all persons in the educational community. Meadows Education Center provides quality instructional services and behavioral management in an optimal learning environment for students K-12. Each student's program is formulated on his/her individual needs by a team of teachers in collaboration with the home school. Beginning with the 2017-18 school year the tutoring of in-patient students was outsourced.

2. The State Board of Education last granted independent school approval to Meadows Education Center on May 15, 2012 for four years through June 30, 2016.

3. Meadows Education Center was visited on behalf of the Commissioner by Brian Morgan on January 29, 2018.

4. The school occupies the east wing on the third floor of the Administration Building of the Brattleboro Retreat. The school enjoys the beautiful warmth of the nineteenth century interior, especially the woodwork and the tin ceilings.

The "elementary" wing includes two classrooms and a room for one-to-one instruction. There are also five classrooms for middle and high school instruction. A computer lab, resource room, art room, library, and work room are all used by the entire school. The core academic classes and administrative offices are all housed on this third floor.

The electives and social skills-building adventure programs are located on the second floor of Linden Lodge, across the street from the main campus.

The facility meets all state and federal health and safety regulations and is handicapped accessible.

Meadows Educational Center includes students from the Abigail Rockwell Residential Center (maximum 8 long-term residential children ages 6-12 in grades K-6), the Child and Adolescent In-Patient Program (maximum of 15 adolescents ages 13-18), and the BRIDGES (Brattleboro Retreat's Individually Developed Guided Education Services) program. On the day of visit there were 22 residential students and 31 BRIDGES students.

5. The minimum course of study, as prescribed in 16 V.S.A. para 906, is provided and adapted to the age and abilities of the students. Half of the school day consists of four, 45-minute classes in the core subjects. Students spend the other half of the day in therapeutic groups and participating in health, physical and/or adventure, communications, and enrichment activities as determined by each student's therapist or social worker. Graduation requirements are determined by the student's ending school. At this time Meadows Ed. Car. does not offer a high school diploma.

The educational program is aligned with the Vermont State Standards and the Common Core. A variety of resources are used, including the Oak Meadow Curriculum.

Meadows Educational Center has prepared the way for a satellite BRIDGE Program in Claremont, NH and expects to open as soon as an appropriate building is located. Meadows Educational Center itself expects to relocate to a more spacious and more recently constructed building on the Retreat campus within the next two years.

6. The school has the resources including financial capacity and qualified staff to meet its objectives.

The school is staffed by two full-time elementary teachers, a full-time middle school classroom teacher, four subject area teachers (Science, English, Social Studies, Math), a full-time Art educator, a full-time K-12 reading specialist, and three social workers. Six of the staff are licensed special educators. The educational program is overseen by a school coordinator and a full-time Director. Staff members are qualified by degree, training, and experience for their positions.

A review of the balance sheet submitted with the application for re-approval indicates that the school is financially sound. An audit for 2015 and 2016 was also available, and while the Meadows Educational Center is audited as part of the entire Brattleboro Retreat organization, the Director joint other departmental Directors to meet with the Retreat CFO on a monthly basis to monitor financial status.

7. The health, safety, attendance, and assessment records are in good order. Fire drill and evacuation drill records are also now in good order.

8. The school maintains an operating schedule that includes a total number of instructional hours each year that is not less than that required of a public school serving the same grades.

9. The school has a policy on prevention of harassment of students that is as stringent as the Agency's model policy.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Morgan

January 29, 2018