



# BEARS (BOCES Educating Autistic and Related Disorders Students)

**Our BEARS programs are designed primarily for students who have a diagnosis of autism, and are in grades K - 12 and up to age 21. We serve students with disabilities resulting in multi-sensory or motor deficiencies and developmental lags in cognitive, affective and psychomotor areas.**

- Classrooms utilize the TEACCH methodologies for individualized instruction
- The program provides an environment rich in the support and understanding of autism. Our classroom approach is to focus on understanding the learning characteristics of individuals with autism, using visual supports and a well structured environment to promote meaning and independence.
- Students are provided with a community experience and opportunities to interact within community settings whenever possible to develop positive social skills
- Implementation of technology is a priority for communication
- Visual supports for social skills and social communication are an integral component of the program
- Our approach is to meet the individual needs of students in order to have the greatest positive impact
- The program is structured around a collaborative, student-centered, team approach

## STUDENTS COMPLETING THE PROGRAM...

- Learn how to communicate, socialize and work in a school community and in a work setting
- Receive high-quality, comprehensive interventions to promote positive outcomes

## FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

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## PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS:

- Each classroom is designed to meet the unique needs of each student
- Several of our classes are located in component schools; classes are also located at the Southern Adirondack Education Center (Hudson Falls) and the F. Donald Myers Education Center (Saratoga Springs)



**EXCEPTIONAL LEARNERS DIVISION**  
*Empowering students through education.*

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