

# Serendipity Program Overview

Serendipity provides individualized instruction and adaptive learning opportunities to students of all abilities, helping those who have struggled in traditional classroom settings to experience academic engagement and success.

## What is Serendipity Center?

Serendipity Center is a private, nonprofit, K-12+ therapeutic school located in Portland, Oregon.

## What is a Therapeutic School?

Serendipity's therapeutic school is a special education program with a primary focus on emotional and behavioral growth.

Our program prioritizes academic learning (Education), progress on individual treatment goals (Mental Health), preparation for future success (Transition Readiness), and the development of life-long health practices (Wellness).

## Serendipity's Mission

Serendipity's mission is to provide the best environment for students to heal and become educated, productive community members.

## Serendipity's Philosophy

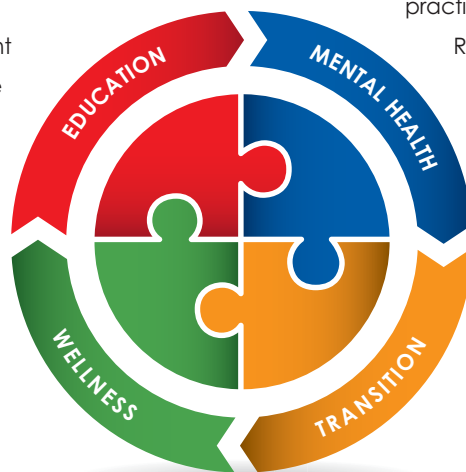
Serendipity's core beliefs are drawn from the philosophy of RE-Education, developed by Dr. Nicholas Hobbs. The 12 Principles of RE-Ed form the foundation of our work and guide our adoption of all other practices.

By aligning with this philosophy, Serendipity stewards a culture designed to promote

- Trusting relationships
- Competence and the mastery of new skills
- The experience of community
- Daily moments of joy

## Serendipity's Model

Serendipity's model involves four integrated pillars – Education, Mental Health, Transition Readiness, and Wellness. We believe delivering services within all four pillars is critical to supporting the growth of our students.



Integration also describes our blending of adopted

practices, all congruent with our core philosophy of RE-Education. Serendipity utilizes a model of Integrated Intervention, sustained by a daily environment of stability and structure, with specific adopted practices for Behavioral interventions, Cognitive Behavioral interventions, and Contextual interventions.

Through implementing this model with fidelity and fluidity, we address behavioral change by:

- Accounting for personal history in understanding persistent difficulties.
- Offering opportunities to learn skills necessary to overcome these difficulties.
- Individualizing plans.
- Thoughtfully moving students towards independent self-regulation.

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# Serendipity Program Overview (continued)

## Program Structure

Current configuration of the school involves twelve largely self-contained classrooms, seven within Lower School (grades K through 8) and five in Upper School (grades 9+). Within every classroom, there is one licensed teacher, one Program Assistant, and between one and ten Instructional Assistants, depending upon the needs of the students. Support is layered around students and classrooms, through the following positions:

- Every student is assigned a Master's level Clinical Case Manager, offering care coordination, counseling, and coaching as indicated. In addition, these therapists serve as clinical consultants to classroom staff in understanding and accommodating mental health challenges.
- A team of Behavioral Interventionists, available for coaching, de-escalation, and positive celebratory times.
- A licensed Art Therapist, offering individual and small group treatment.
- A Garden Coordinator, offering earth science to all classrooms, a Garden Apprenticeship Opportunity for students seeking on-campus work experience in urban farming, a Farm to Table Club, and a Farm to Community senior project.
- A Therapeutic Recreation Instructor, offering tailored, noncompetitive movement and play to all classrooms.
- Two Speech/Language Pathologists, delivering both pull-out therapy and classroom consultation.
- A team of Tier I Coaches provide coaching and supervision to classrooms as teams work to implement the Serendipity model of structure and routine. Also, a Tier III Coordinator who tracks interventions and progress for students requiring the highest level of support.
- A Food Services team that creates fresh, scratch-cooked meals, supplementing from our garden whenever possible.
- A Transition Coordinator offering instruction in life skills, skills of independence, and/or employment readiness to all classrooms.
- An Assessment Coordinator, supporting the regular measurement of academic growth.
- A Principal, Education & Compliance Manager, Treatment Director, and Program Manager.
- A consulting Psychiatrist and a consulting School Nurse.

## Important Facts about Serendipity

- Serendipity is accredited by Cognia, and is registered/approved by Departments of Education in both Oregon and Washington states.
- In 2019, the National Association of Special Education Teachers conferred on Serendipity the award of being Oregon's only private, special education School of Excellence.
- Serendipity opened our school doors in 1979, and have operated under the same mission while evolving our model ever since.
- Serendipity currently partners with up to 22 school districts in five counties in Oregon and Southwest Washington.



**For more information on how to support Serendipity Center, please contact:**

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