

# Essential Skills Program Syllabus 2014-15

Special Education- Essential Skills Program  
ESC Literacy 691-01, ESC Numeracy 692-01, ESC Pre-Voc 695-01, ADL-3, ADL-4  
Rm Aux-G

## **Wilby High School Core Values and Beliefs**

*All students will leave Wilby High School with the self-respect, respect for others, knowledge, and skills necessary to become independent, intellectually curious, and self-fulfilled members of society.*

## **Student Expectations**

Academic (Effective Reader, Effective Writer, Effective Problem Solver, Self Directed Learner), Social (Respectful Person, Collaborative and Cooperative Worker) and Civic (Community Contributor) Expectations.

## **Program Overview-**

The Essential Skills Program (ESC) at Wilby High School is designed to meet the needs of the severely disabled and/ or medically fragile student. Classes consist of four basic areas of study: **Literacy, Numeracy, Pre-Voc** and **Activities of Daily Living Skills (ADL)**. Students in this program participate in an individualized alternate curriculum with an emphasis on CT Common Core Standards, Waterbury BOE and Wilby High School curriculum. All classes emphasize the important of functional communication and independence skills. As members of the Wilby High School family, all students enrolled in ESC classes are encouraged daily to challenge themselves in these areas of student expectations: Effective Reader (through Literacy), Effective Problem Solver, Self-Directed Learner, Respectful Person, Collaborative and Cooperative Worker and Community Contributor.

## **Instructors-**

Ms. Denise Macarski- Main teacher

Miss Carrie Wilkesman –Period 3 & 4

## **Para-educators-**

We have 4-5 Para-educators per period who work with ESC students throughout their school day including, bus arrivals, breakfast, transport, lunch, lavatory time and dismissal. Paraprofessionals also reinforce concepts introduced to the class by the teacher, as well as track data and implement behavioral plans.

**Student Descriptions-** The 2014-15 ESC program consist of 13 students. Two students participate in the Community Based Training Program (CBT) for 2 periods per day, which they attend an off-campus community work program 2-4x/week. Students in attendance in the ESC classroom are categorized as having multiple disabilities including a combination of the following: seizure disorder, cerebral palsy, intellectual disability, visual impairments, downs syndrome and other chromosomal disorders.

## **ESC Class Courses & Basic Daily Schedule**

**Homeroom-** 7-7:30- includes daily breakfast/hygiene

Per. 1 **ADL Class-** hygiene & gross motor activities

Per. 2 **Literacy-** vocabulary building, name writing, computer skills

- Per. 3 **Numeracy-** functional math

Per. 4 **Electives**

Per. 5 **Café A LUNCH-** student lunch

Café B **ADL–** housekeeping, hygiene, smart board/computer skill building

Café C- **ADL –** housekeeping, hygiene, story/songs, fine-motor activities

Per. 6 **Electives**

Per. 7 **Pre-Voc-** sorting, assembly, housekeeping

**Electives-** High school electives classes help students participate in the Least Restrictive Environment. All students in the ESC program take 2 electives classes daily. This school year the following selections are: PE, Vocals and Art. Para-educators accompany all students to electives classes and assist them in class.

**Therapists-** The ESC team works collaboratively with the Vision (TVI) teacher, Mrs. Lynn Draus; Speech/Language Pathologist, Mrs. Jennifer Casolo; Occupational Therapist, Denise Scheilke (Access Rehab) and Physical Therapist, Christie K. (Access Rehab) to assist students to reach their full potential in the ESC classroom, Wilby High School and in the Waterbury community.

### **Assessments –**

Our school psychologist, Ms. Diana Gavrilis, performs various Psycho-educational testing for triennial reporting. She also coordinated Adaptive Scales Testing as well.

Students are also assessed in their sophomore year, using the CT CAPT checklist.

IEP objectives are embedded with a 6 -point rubric system used to gage the level of support each student requires. 0/1= maximum physical assist, 2= min. physical prompt, 3=maximum verbal prompt

(<4), 4=minimum verbal prompt (> 4), 5= gestures/cues and 6=independent. School-wide and classroom based 6 pt. rubrics are also used to further analysis student performance.

**Report Cards** – Grades are based on progress on IEP goals and objectives and the student's ability. Report Cards – Grades based on their IEP objectives and modifications. 100-90=A Mastered; 89-80=B Satisfactory +; 79-70=C Satisfactory -; 69-60=D Unsatisfactory; 59-50=F No progress

**Positive Behavior Support Intervention (PBIS)** – The ESC program participates in the school-wide positive behavior support Wildcat PAWS for good behavior. Students who are nominated by a teacher for good behavior are honored by attending a special breakfast with other rewarded students.

**Peer Tutoring** – Over the years, regular education students recommended by teachers/administration and the Allied Health Students have always participated in tutoring/socializing in the Essential Skills Program. Because of this interest, an official Essential Buddies Club was formed 4 years ago for any regular/special education student wishing to socialize and form friendships with the students in Essential Skills classes. Essential Buddies who form close bonds with our students are incorporated as peer tutors into classroom assignments, in which they assist in ESC classroom activities, which ensures learning for all. Currently, the club consists of 30+ regular education students, who meet with the students in ESC during supervised study times and during special events throughout the school year. The club is supervised by Ms. Macarski, Miss Wilkesman & Mrs. Stroud.

#### **Parent Communication-**

Daily parent/teacher communication books are used for all students. Parents are encouraged to write on how the child is behaving at home or any unusual events, as to help the staff understand the student's needs each day. The classroom had a direct line (203) 573-5078 in which the parent can contact the teacher anytime, however Ms. Macarski requests you contact her between 8:30am-9:00am , unless it is an emergency or of timely nature. Ms. Macarski also makes phone calls home as needed; please let her know of a time during the school day when she can contact you.

## Class Materials/Resources-

<p>Adapted Books Voice output devices Big Mac &amp; Lollipop switches Photo Schedule/ choice booklet Object Schedules (based on Van Dike) Communication boards Environmental Control Units Classroom phone Computers/Smart board Audio/visual equipment</p>	<p>Mats Wedges Standers Walkers Sensory swing Adaptive bike Adaptive Sports Equipment Positioning Equipment Adaptive feeding tools Cooking materials Household Appliances</p>	<p>Hygiene supplies Art/Craft/Sensory supplies Musical instruments Stickers/ prize box Math/vocational manipulatives Gardening supplies &amp; areas Rest/quiet area Study carrel Changing room Laundry Facilities Elevator/ground level access</p>
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