



Lakes Country Academy

Special Education Setting IV: K-8

Serving 26 Region IV LCSC Districts

Alexandria, Ashby, Barnesville, Battle Lake, Brandon-Evansville, Breckenridge, Chokio-Alberta, Clinton-Graceville-Beardsley, Campbell-Tintah, Dilworth-Glyndon-Felton, Detroit Lakes, Fergus Falls, Frazee-Vergas, Hawley, Herman-Norcross, Lake Park Audubon, Minnewaska, Moorhead, Morris, Pelican Rapids, Perham, Rothsay, Ulen-Hitterdal, Underwood, West Central Area, Wheaton

Mission:

Lakes Country Academy exists to serve students with educational and behavioral challenges by providing transformational support and skills (through evidence based practices) in a highly individualized environment.

Values:

- Individualized: Student centered programming
- Safety: Positive, supportive learning environment
- Collaboration: Connect and include families, school districts, and other agencies
- Education: High learning standards and use of evidence based practices
- Relationships: The foundation for building acceptance and trust

Regional Sites:

Fergus Falls (K-12, EBD, ASD & SUN)
Alexandria (K-6, EBD, ASD & SUN)

Staff Includes:

- Special Education Director
- Special Education Site Administrators
- Special Education Teachers
- Paraprofessionals
- School Social Worker
- School Psychologist
- Behavior Specialists
- Occupational Therapist
- Speech/Language Pathologist
- DAPE Professional
- School Nurse

Lakes Country Academy (LCA) Eligibility Requirements:

Please complete the following checklist:

- Student must be eligible for special education services and have a current IEP.
- Demonstrates lack of progress toward IEP goals, despite receiving a full range of services.
- Exhaust interventions/resources within the district.
- Explore interventions/resources outside of the school setting.
- Shows an evaluated or present level need for behavioral (EBD/OHI) or ASD programming.

LCA Referral Process:

Please complete the following checklist:

- Current programming is at a federal setting III.
OR
- Current programming is at a federal setting V, VI, VII or VIII (Residential Placement, Homebound, Hospital, etc.) with recommendations for a lesser restrictive placement.
 - Obtain release of information for educational records at residential treatment center/hospital (**Please include a copy of signed release in referral packet**)
 - Obtain education records/transcript from residential treatment center/hospital (**Please include a copy of these records in referral packet**)
- Obtain signed release of information by parent/guardian between referring district and Lakes Country Service Cooperative ISD 926 (**Please include signed release in referral packet**)
- Referral Form:
 - Student/District Information
 - Academic Data
 - Behavior Data
 - Responses and Changes to Problem Behaviors
 - Summary
- Current Evaluation Report
 - Functional Behavior Assessment
- Current IEP and any amendments
 - Behavior Intervention Plan
- Referral forms along with ALL supporting documentation is submitted to LCA Director of Special Education preferably scanned & sent via email.**
 - Email adoll@lcsc.org (**PREFERRED and most reliable**)
 - Mailing Address: Attn: Angela Doll, 1001 East Mount Faith, Fergus Falls, MN 56537

Once submitted it will be evaluated by the LCA referral team. A team member will be in contact with the referring district's Special Education Director/Coordinator for next steps.

Referral meetings are held on Mondays at the Fergus site and Tuesdays at the Alex site. ALL Referrals must be submitted/received by Angela Doll before the Wednesday prior to referral meetings to be considered at the scheduled referral meetings.

The decision making process is criterion based and data driven. Referrals with missing data will be returned for more information needed. Only complete referrals will be considered. The purpose of this process is to ensure student needs are being met in the least restrictive setting. If the LCA site is full, accepted students will be put on a waiting list. The LCA will keep the referring district updated on the status of the student's placement on the waiting list. *If a student is on a waiting list for more than 3 calendar months, the referring district will be asked to update referral data or re-submit a referral, as determined by the LCA referral team.*

→ If student **is accepted** for placement at LCA:

- ◆ The referring district holds an IEP meeting to propose a setting IV change of placement with Prior Written Notice proposing placement. Once the parent/guardian signs consent for the change of placement, referring district alerts LCA Referral Team.
- ◆ Referring district arranges transportation
- ◆ LCA Personnel will reach out to schedule an Intake meeting with the student, parent/guardian and will set a start date at LCA.
 - *Referring district must complete a 3yr re-evaluation prior to placement if the student's re-eval date falls within 90 school days of anticipated start date at LCA*
- ◆ The referring district will coordinate and lead the referral process up to the student's start date at LCA, as well take leadership as a student transitions back to his or her referring district with collaboration from LCA staff.

→ If student **is not recommended** for placement at LCA:

- ◆ The LCA team will provide rationale as to why the referral was not recommended and discuss options to support the referring district.

In the event a student leaves the LCA for any reason (e.g., court placement elsewhere), the LCA will not keep their spot open and the student must be re-referred and may be subject to a waiting list.