



Together, We Help **Students Shine**

SESI ANNUAL REPORT

SCHOOL YEAR 2025-2026



At Specialized Education Services, Inc. (SESI), we believe every student deserves the opportunity to reach their full potential. Every day, our educators, clinicians, and support staff partner with families and school districts to provide the individualized academic, behavioral, and emotional support students need to succeed in school and beyond.

As I reflect on the 2025–2026 school year, I'm proud of what we've accomplished together. We served more than 12,000+ students through our Special Education and Alternative Education Private Day Schools and In-District Classrooms. SESI strengthened partnerships with 850+ school districts across the country, expanded access to specialized education, and continued investing in the people and programs that make student success possible.

Our impact starts with our teammates. More than 3,200 educators, clinicians, therapists, behavior specialists, and support professionals bring expertise, compassion, and dedication to their work every day. Their commitment helps students build confidence, make meaningful progress, and achieve outcomes that change lives.

The stories and results throughout this report reflect what's possible when talented people work together around a shared purpose. They highlight the progress our students make, the strength of our partnerships, and the trust families and district partners place in SESI every day.

As we look ahead, our priorities remain clear: improving student outcomes, investing in our people, operating consistently across our system of programs, and positioning SESI for growth so we can reach more students. These priorities will help us continue delivering exceptional programs, strengthening our partnerships, and expanding access to the specialized education services students need to succeed.



Thank you to our teammates, families, district partners, and community partners for your continued trust and partnership. Together, we're helping more students realize their full potential and creating brighter futures for the students, families, and communities we serve.

With gratitude,

Dawn Thomas

Dawn Thomas, President, SESI

School Year 2025–2026

At a Glance



12,000+

Students Served
Annually



82%

IEP Progress



82%

Attendance



850+

District Partners



96%

District Partner
Renewal Rate



90+

Private Day Schools



3,200+

Employees



160+

In-District
Classrooms

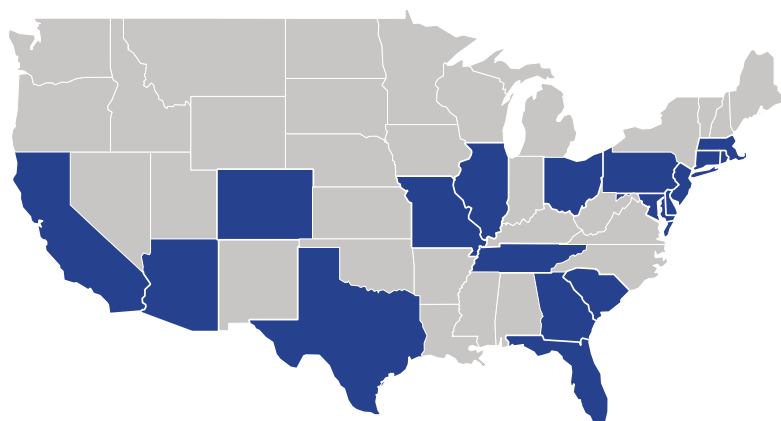


35+

Years of
Experience

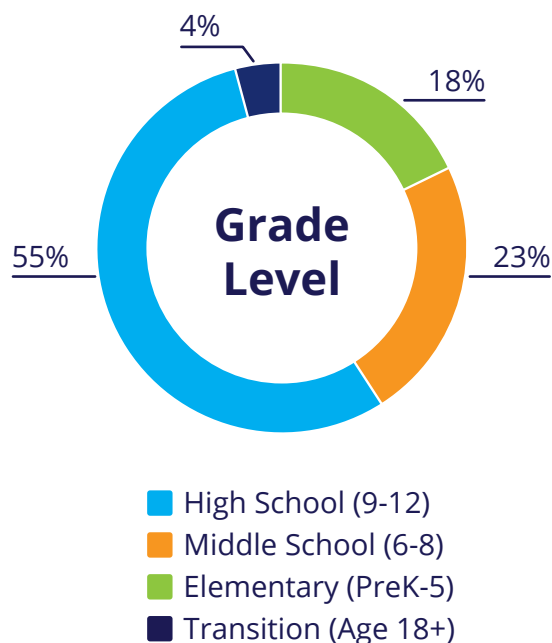
About SESI

With the right opportunities, every student has the potential to shine. At Specialized Education Services, Inc. (SESI), we're dedicated to meeting the unique needs of K-12 students who require support beyond that found in traditional classrooms, helping them move beyond academic, behavioral, and emotional learning barriers. Through trusted partnerships with school districts, tailored student instruction, and compassionate engagement with families, we make sustainable success possible in our Special Education and Alternative Education Private Day Schools and In-District Classrooms.

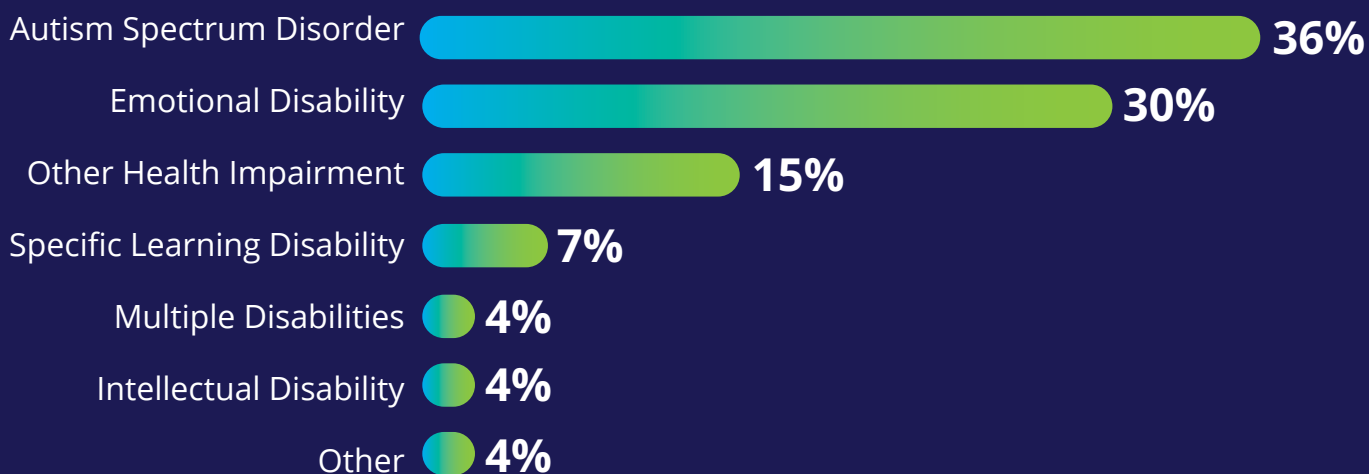


12,000+

Students served across **17** States



Primary Disabilities





850+ District Partners

For more than 35 years, SESI has partnered with school districts to deliver personalized special education and alternative education solutions. Today, we proudly support more than 850 district partners nationwide, helping students achieve meaningful outcomes while expanding district capacity.



90+ Private Day Schools

For students whose needs cannot be met in a district setting, SESI operates more than 90 Private Day Schools that offer highly structured, therapeutic environments. Districts can refer students directly, and we coordinate closely with school teams and families to ensure continuity of services, compliance with IEPs, and support through transitions.



160+ In-District Classrooms

SESI designs and staffs custom, In-District Classrooms that allow students to remain in their school communities while receiving the intensive support they need. We provide the staffing, programming, and day-to-day management. SESI expands the continuum of services for school districts, reduces out-of-district placements, and improves student outcomes.

“Our dedicated SESI teammates show up every day to ensure our students maximize their potential and exceed expectations. Through supportive, evidence-based practices, we help students make progress that lasts, so they experience success not just at SESI, but in all aspects of their lives.”

— Dr. Diane Myers, SVP, Integrated Support



Student Spotlight



Bianca

Sierra School at Allen, Texas

Bianca is a 12-year-old student diagnosed with autism and limited language capacity. She demonstrated aggressive and self-injurious behaviors that impacted her ability to safely engage in classroom instruction and transitions. Bianca's parents and ARD committee put a plan together for her to transition to a highly structured environment.

At **Sierra School at Allen**, Bianca receives support through SESI's Bloom Learning Pathway, which is designed for students with moderate to severe cognitive disabilities or autism who benefit from individualized instruction focused on functional communication, daily living, and academic skills.

How SESI Supports Bianca

Through individualized programming and consistent routines, SESI staff support Bianca in building self-regulation, independence, and academic engagement. Bianca is learning to use calming strategies independently, participate safely with peers, and strengthen her communication skills. Close family partnership and evidence-based supports continue to build Bianca's confidence while helping her make meaningful progress toward her goals.



94%

Attendance



Mastered

Reading & Functional Math Goals



Meaningful Growth

Communication & Classroom Engagement



Greater Independence

Self-Regulation & Daily Living Skills

Celebrating Bianca's Progress

"We love Sierra School and how the team takes such good care of Bianca."

— Agata Lata, Mother

"I've seen an increased willingness to engage in classroom activities and with learning materials. She has made measurable progress toward communication targets. The **Sierra School staff have truly connected with Bianca** and provided consistency and compassion while they work with her to take steps forward every day."

— Summer Farmer, Lead Speech-Language Pathologist, Allen ISD Special Services

"Bianca's dedication and determination shine through in everything she does, and she is excelling in all areas. We are incredibly proud of her hard work and look forward to seeing what the future holds."

- Avis Hite, Director, Sierra School at Allen

SESI is Trusted by District Partners and Families



1,068

Voice of the Customer
Survey Responses

Districts

81%

of District Partners ranked us a 9 or 10 when asked how likely they are to refer SESI to a colleague.

"Many students referred to High Road School were previously on modified schedules or homebound due to significant behavioral needs. After transitioning to High Road, many returned to full-day attendance, made meaningful behavioral progress, and successfully reintegrated into general education. Our department has a high level of trust in High Road and the services our students receive."

— Alyse M., District Partner, High Road School of Boone County, Missouri

Families

78%

of Families ranked us a 9 or 10 when asked how likely they are to refer SESI to a friend or family member.

"Sierra School's staff are approachable, responsive, and present. They have gone above and beyond to meet my child's individual needs. We've seen tremendous growth in both behavior and academics, and he has developed friendships we never thought possible. Every experience we've had with Sierra School of Gilbert has been positive."

— Jessie L, Parent, Sierra School of Gilbert, Arizona

SESI Learning Pathways

Special Education - 65%

Spark 44%

Academic and Behavior Support

We inspire students to achieve academic success by helping them strengthen their behavioral and learning abilities through a district-aligned curriculum designed to lead the way to less restrictive settings.

Spring 7%

Instruction and Life Skills

We support students with emotional and mild cognitive disabilities through a tailored combination of academic and behavioral support to help ensure sustainable growth in more traditional classrooms.

Bloom 14%

Functional Communication and Daily Living

We foster engagement in students with moderate to severe cognitive disabilities or autism by helping them strengthen functional academic, communication, and life skills in a nurturing, supportive environment.

Alternative Education - 35%

Early Behavioral

Elementary Therapeutic and Behavior Support

We help young learners with intensive behavioral needs by providing therapeutic, targeted support in small, nurturing classes. In this positive and safe environment, students can grow socially, emotionally, and academically.

Transitional

Re-engagement and Rebuilding

We re-engage students in their educational journey by helping them build the academic and emotional skills necessary to succeed in less restrictive settings and reach new milestones.

Accelerated

Credit Recovery and Graduation Readiness

We help over-age and/or under-credited students regain academic ground and stay on track for grade-level promotion and graduation, paving the way for long-term success.

People and Culture



The Core5 values guide how we make decisions, treat each other, and work together to shape brighter paths for children, their families, and our communities. These values are action-oriented—reflecting how our team members live them out in a way that creates impact for life.

Transparent

Communicate clearly, openly, and directly

Decisive

Demonstrate a bias for action

Humble

Acknowledge and learn from mistakes

Accountable

Embrace personal ownership

Inclusive

Promote respect, representation, and belonging

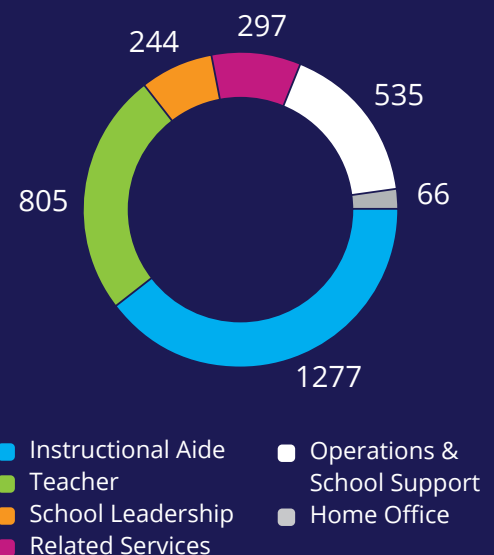
“Building an exceptional workforce is one of the most important investments we can make. This year, we strengthened our commitment to attracting, developing, and retaining talented educators and professionals while creating meaningful career pathways that support long-term growth. Together, we’re building a culture where employees can thrive and students can reach their full potential.”



Emily Gaines,
Vice President,
People + Culture

Our People

Our **3,200+** talented professionals are the reason students realize the joy of possibility every day. Across SESI Private Day Schools and In-District Classrooms, educators, clinicians, therapists, behavior specialists, and support staff combine specialized expertise with unwavering compassion to help students overcome barriers, build confidence, and reach their full potential. By investing in our people, we create brighter futures for every student we serve.



Career Pathways that Help Educators Shine

SESI's Teacher Credentialing Program helps passionate educators advance their teaching careers while continuing to serve students. By removing barriers to teacher certification and advanced degrees, SESI is building a stronger workforce and expanding access to high-quality instruction for students nationwide.

10+

teacher credential
program partners

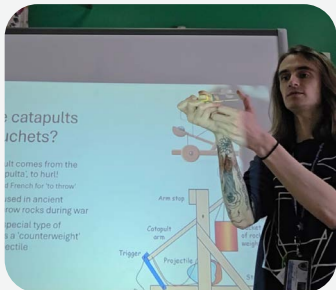
37

educators earned teaching credentials
through SESI-supported programs

370+

students
impacted

Advancing Career Pathways, Strengthening Classrooms



Earned: Master's degree
in special education and
teaching credential

Aiden Sharer,

Special Education Teacher, High Road School of Naperville, Illinois

"When this opportunity opened up, my administrators offered a pathway to earn my teaching credential and master's degree in special education. It was a no-brainer in terms of what is offered by SESI and the value it has brought to my life. The support and flexibility made it an easy decision."

Aiden's experience reflects SESI's commitment to helping educators advance their careers while expanding their impact in the classroom.



Earned: Special
Education Certification

Suzanne (Suzy) Cherry,

Special Education Teacher, Sierra School of Gateway, Arizona

"Earning my certification was an important professional milestone. The flexibility in scheduling classroom observations, providing time away from the classroom, and supporting me as I fulfilled requirements were instrumental to my success. SESI's encouragement and commitment to my professional growth also helped reinforce the collaborative, supportive culture that makes Sierra School of Gateway such a rewarding place to work."

By supporting educators like Suzy, SESI is helping create stronger learning environments and greater opportunities for student success.

Recognizing Excellence Across SESI

In its fifth year, the SESI Teacher and Staff of the Year program honors educators who exemplify excellence in instruction, leadership, and student support. Selected from campus, regional, and divisional honorees across the country, the national winners represent the very best of SESI's mission in action.



2026 Teacher of the Year



Antonela Qyra

Special Education Teacher,
High Road School of
Hartford: High School (CT)

"I believe that all students possess the potential to succeed when teaching is truly student-centered, rooted in high expectations and guided by culturally responsive, evidence-based practices."

Antonela was recognized for her leadership in literacy intervention and her commitment to helping students achieve meaningful academic growth.



2026 Staff of the Year



Raynard Gillispie

Behavior Support
Specialist, Excel Academy
of Roseland (IL)

"I believe students thrive when they have positive role models, and I strive to be that influence. By sharing my story, I hope to empower students to take charge of their learning and pursue their goals with confidence."

A graduate of a SESI school himself, Raynard returned to support students facing challenges similar to those he once experienced and now serves as a mentor, role model, and advocate for student success.

News and Highlights

-  [Achieve Academy of Dougherty County Brings New Opportunities to Albany](#)
-  [New private school serving special needs students opens in Greater Cincinnati](#)
-  [Sierra School of Tucson Expands Special Needs Education](#)
-  [The Graham Academy's 5K Run & Walk for Acceptance & Inclusion](#)
-  [High Road School of Hartford Teacher Named SESI's 2026 Teacher of the Year](#)
-  [CBS Chicago Highlights Excel Academies Graduates Who Overcame the Odds](#)



Specialized Education Services, Inc. (SESI), a division of FullBloom, is a premier provider of education services for K-12 students who require additional educational and behavioral supports to overcome challenges that impede success in a traditional school setting. SESI partners with school districts to run in-district classrooms and private day schools that meet the academic, behavioral, and emotional needs of special and alternative education students with Autism Spectrum Disorders, Emotional Disabilities, Learning Disabilities, and other challenges. Partnering with over 850 school districts nationwide, SESI serves nearly 12,000 students in private day schools and in-district classrooms.

sischools.com