

ACES  
REGIONS  
Educational Programs  
(Hartford and Hamden)

Dr. Lisa Simone



“Every Kid Is One Caring Adult Away From Being a Success  
Story”

~Josh Shipp

## **ACES and Community Partners in Action Mutual Beliefs**

*Our mutual goals are to support the students in achieving personal and educational growth.*

- Each individual has inherent worth and all students can learn. High expectations and effort are essential for higher achievement. Diversity strengthens an organization. Each youth may learn to think differently and to make better choices.
- Quality education provides the foundation for the success of the individual and community. Individuals are responsible for their own actions, families are essential and the willingness to change. We help them (students) address their personal and basic needs as they prepare to become employable, re-engage in their education and stabilize their families.
- Everyone has a responsibility to each other and to contribute to the common good. Honesty and respect are essential for building trusting relationships. A positive attitude enhances performance. Collaboration enhances productivity and generates creativity. They (students) also grow by giving back to their communities.

## **Our Students' Rights**

The right to attend school is afforded within ten days to any student who is incarcerated in Connecticut. A youth has the right to a free appropriate public school education and to receive credit for work completed while detained in a Connecticut facility. Special education services are also included in the child's education program if a student has an IEP from his LEA.

## **ACES REGIONS Education Promise**

The ACES REGIONS school-based program provides students with opportunities to increase their knowledge in core academic areas aligned with the State of Connecticut curriculum standards. The educational goals and targets for students in the secure-school setting ensures a safe and supportive educational environment with rigorous instruction. ACES REGIONS educational program is designed to address the needs of students who are educated in a secure school setting to support community integration as well as a positive transition to home school districts, post-secondary education, vocational training, or the workforce. The overarching goal of our post-graduation planning is to ensure high-quality transition experiences that offer education and career pathways that reduce the likelihood of re-arrest. ACES, Yale, and Community Partners in Action collaborate with community partners to engage students in effective planning starting with the development of their individualized student success plans and training Dialectical Behavioral Therapy in addition to the curricular offerings that provide vocational experiences. All students including English learners and those with special needs will be provided with the necessary technology, tools, and continuum of support to help them establish and successfully attain meaningful goals that will foster their growth beyond their school experience.

## **Daily Schedule**

### **Small Group Instruction (targeted differentiated instruction)**

#### **Academic/Social-Emotional**

**STEM:** Students alternate their week between Math and Science classes to ensure well-rounded STEM students. The science classes offer a more hands-on approach to learning in which students participate in weekly science experiments to discover practical uses for the scientific method. Most science experiments include an element of engineering, pushing students to become more comfortable following assembly instructions. Our science content is guided by grade-level interactive textbooks that offer a wider range of activities and checks for knowledge. The math curriculum is led by the well-reviewed academic software ALEKS as well as foundational math and algebra which are teacher led instruction. The students are provided these lessons twice a week and ALEKS access one time per week.

**Humanities:** Our Humanities Curriculum is student-centered and based on the idea of self-discovery. Humanities mainly covers the subjects of English Language Arts (ELA) and Social Studies. A 10th grade ELA curriculum is implemented among the students which includes reading and analyzing grade-level novels, developing writing skills, and reading comprehension. Social Studies cover 9th – 11th-grade curriculum in which students learn introductory units in U.S. History, Modern Global History, and Civics. Furthermore, students receive economics lessons that tie into our Life Skills Curriculum which involves learning the stock market. Students can make real investments of their own to track and analyze. Other content areas within our Social Studies curriculum allow for students to investigate, make mistakes, and self-correct in their learning process.

#### **Health and Wellness:**



The Health and Wellness Class combines academic learning with mindfulness, yoga, and other cross curriculum activities aligned with Physical Education and DBT (Dialectical Behavioral Therapy) classes.

**Life Skills and Career Development Class:** The Life Skills and Career Development curriculum addresses multiple facets of important skills for students to learn as they prepare to graduate from high school and enter post-secondary life, whether it be a college/university education, vocational training, or another path. In this course, students learn about interpersonal communication at school and work, resolving conflict, how to apply for a job (including writing a resume and cover letter), workplace etiquette and norms (such as dress codes and basic workplace rules), financial literacy,

learning and practicing basic technological skills, crafting arguments and counterarguments, and parenting skills.

**Portfolio Class:** The Portfolio Class curriculum allows students to investigate projects that align to their personal interests. Students are asked to *learn, think, do, or solve* at the start of their project and work with staff members to delve into their projects over the course of multiple weeks. Past projects have included learning new painting techniques and creating a portfolio of original work, writing/recording a rap album and designing/marketing merchandise to accompany the album, modifying remote control cars to increase speed, and creating an original movie trailer with live-action parts.

**Community Class:** The Community Class curriculum encourages students to interact with the school and building community, as well as the outside community. Past activities in the Community curriculum include organizing care packages for a men's homeless shelter, making dog and cat beds for animal shelters, creating original artwork for each building, participating in weekly community restorative circles, designing vision boards, and maintaining a community garden.

**Culinary Class: (ServSafe Option):** The Culinary Class teaches students key safety skills to use in the kitchen, along with practical experiences. The lessons include:

- Hygiene and Sanitation Guidelines
- Proper food handling
- Basic kitchen safety
- Additionally, students are able to follow the ServSafe Food Handler curriculum where they could seek the opportunity to take the ServSafe certification assessment.
- Meal Planning
- Meal Preparation
- Farm to Table Creations
- Servsafe Certification

**Future Technical Education Classes (Hamden):**

- Hydroponic Greenhouse
  - Community Donations
  - Farm to Table Activities
- Computer Lab
  - Driver Permit Training
  - Coding Certification (Google)
  - Management/Leadership
  - OSHA
    - General Industry Training Courses
    - Construction Safety
    - Forklift & Heavy Equipment Training
    - Basic Workplace Safety Orientation
    - Hand and Power Tool Safety in Construction

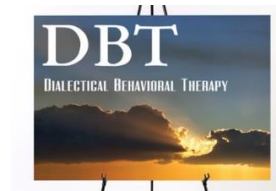
- IT Fundamentals
  - Google
  - Microsoft Certifications
- Career Programming
  - Resume Writing
  - Job Applications
  - Certifications (Osha, Servsafe)
- **Barbering**
  - Trained by a certified Barber
  - Barber Certification (When Connecticut state specific requirements are met)
  - Apprenticeships
  - Customer Service Certification
  - Paid internship opportunities post placement (REGIONS Staff-Secured)

### **Virtual Classroom**

- Initially Forklift Virtual Training and Certification
- Future Programs

## **Social-Emotional/Collaboration through Teamwork**

### **Dialectical Behavioral Therapy Class:**



REGIONS Hartford has adopted the following specific DBT strategies used on a daily basis in all areas of our community:

- Mindfulness: A mental state achieved by focusing one's awareness on the present moment.
- Pros and Cons: The process of evaluating both positive and negative responses.
- ACCEPTS: Activities, Contributing, Comparisons, Emotions, Push away, Thoughts, and Sensation. These techniques are designed to keep your emotions manageable until you can resolve the problem.
- DEAR Man
- Wise Mind

In addition:

- Restorative Skill Building
- Social Emotional Skill Building
- Accepting directions and criticism with a positive attitude.
- Creating projects based on all areas of focus (collaboration and team building).

## **Credit Recovery**

- Traditional coursework (Teacher based) with General and Special Education Teachers
- \*Multiple academic learning opportunities through teacher-led, online and hybrid courses
- ALEKS (Math)
- Achieve3000 (Reading)
- Everfi Online Programming
- Google Classroom
- EastConn Collaborative
  - CPR/First Aid Class
  - Communicating Effectively Program

## **Career Readiness/Post-Secondary Exploration** (Class Sessions and Community Involvement)

- Career Inventories
  - Soft skills (Resume writing, interviewing)
  - Career Research
  - Skill attainment such as oral and written communication skills needed for all steps in a career.
- Project-based learning
  - Humane Society Beds and Treats
  - Bird Feeder for the Community
- Service-learning, and work-based learning (Hartford)
  - Food Share
  - Horse Farm
  - Auto Mechanic Shop



## **ACES REGIONS Summer Enrichment Program (Exceeding the 180 day school year)**

In addition to the school year, ACES REGIONS offers a Summer Enrichment Program during the month of July. The program will offer the following course work: Math, History, ELA, Science, Community Projects, Culinary, Dialectical Behavioral Therapy and Physical Education. Below is a snapshot of the 2020 ACES REGIONS Hartford Summer Enrichment Program:

### ***Culinary Arts***

The students will have a classroom and lab model of culinary lessons. The students will have cooking and baking units (baking) as well as engaged in labs. They will develop their own labs



based on specific recipes and foods of interest. In the classroom the students discuss topics such as specific ingredients, baking time and dietary factors.

### ***Gardening***

In conjunction with science lessons on plant biology and gardening in general. Our students will apply those lessons by planting and caring for their own gardens. Students are solely responsible for planting, weeding, fertilizing, and watering plants on a daily basis.



### ***Exploring Our State through Adventures (Hartford)***

We explored state parks, hiked tall mountains, rode horses, participated in ropes courses, barbequed by the river and several other exciting adventures. Next year we will add in canoeing, bike riding, sailing, aquatic macroinvertebrate collection, survival skill building, Citizens Science projects as well as geocaching and mapping techniques