

MISSION STATEMENT

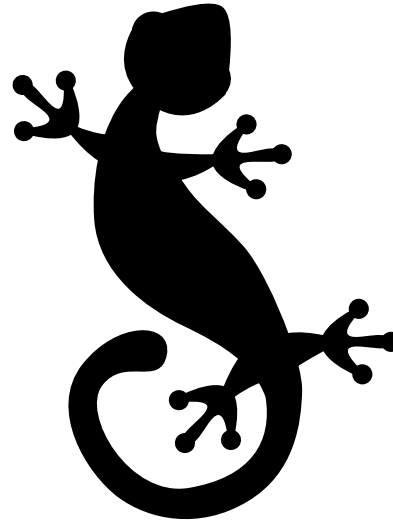
Our mission is to integrate school, family and community in order to provide the highest quality academic and therapeutic programs.

WHY CONNECTIONS?

The Connections Schools have over a twenty-year history of providing outstanding and cutting edge special education programs, developed in response to current research and theory in both education and mental health.

Our programs have a deep and unwavering commitment to improving the academic experiences, personal achievements, and future outlook of our students. We adhere to the highest academic and clinical standards in order to identify obstacles to learning, formulate goals, and execute treatment plans.

We partner with parents, school districts and outpatient providers to provide the highest caliber of services. We are approved by the Illinois State Board of Education.



Go Geckos!

Virtual Connections Academy
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VIRTUAL CONNECTIONS ACADEMY



*Family, School and
Community Partnerships
Leading to Successful
Learning*

GENERAL PROGRAM INFORMATION

- Hours: M-W & F: 8:45a to 2:45p, Th 8:45a-1:45p
- Extended School Year: M-Th: 8:45a-2:45p
- Transportation provided by home school district

ACADEMIC SERVICES

- New Illinois Learning Standards
- In-Home Support
- Individualized Academic Support
- Small Group Instruction
- Tiered Intervention Supports
- Differentiated Instruction
- Reading and Mathematics Interventions
- Technology Integration
- Physical Education
- Transition Services and Post-Graduation Preparations

RELATED SERVICES

- Individual and Group Psychotherapy
- Crisis Management
- Family Therapy and Support
- Restorative Intervention & Support
- Psychiatric Evaluations
- Art Therapy
- Occupational Therapy Evaluation & Services
- Speech and Language Evaluation & Services
- Nursing Services
- Home Visits
- Community Service and Excursions



OUR STUDENTS

Special education (ED, SLD, S/L, ID, OHI, AUT, TBI) students (aged 6 to 21) are placed by their local school districts following the determination that the student's needs could not be met by their home school district programs and support services.

VIRTUAL PROGRAMMING

Virtual Connections Academy (VCA) is an answer to the growing need for services for children identified with school anxiety, being medically fragile, or experience social difficulties which preclude them from inclusion into public education. VCA offers a standard curriculum of Reading, Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, and Physical Education in a blended digital learning environment and classroom environment. A great deal of extra assistance is provided to help the students make progress in the general curriculum including creating instruction through video lectures and other technology based forums that can be watched repeatedly as needed by each student. Teachers and students interact through discussion boards, team discussion boards for collaborative work, and via individual forums.

THE CIRCLE OF COURAGE

The model used at VCA encompasses four core values that have been validated by contemporary child research on the development and maintenance of psychological resilience and emotional health.

- **BELONGING** "Be related, somehow, to everyone you know." Treating others as kin forges powerful social bonds of community that draws all into relationships of respect.
- **MASTERY** Competence is ensured by guaranteed opportunities for mastery. When success is achieved, the desire to achieve more is strengthened.
- **INDEPENDENCE** Power is fostered by building respect and learning inner discipline to make decisions, solve problems, and show personal responsibility.
- **GENEROSITY** In helping others, young people create their own proof of worthiness; they have the power to make a positive contribution to another human life.

