

GNETS- Burwell

General Information:

The Georgia Network for Educational and Therapeutic Support (GNETS) is comprised of 24 programs which support the local school systems' continuum of services for students with disabilities, ages 3-21. The programs provide comprehensive educational and therapeutic support services to students who might otherwise require residential or other more restrictive placements due to the severity of one or more of the characteristics of the disability category of emotional and behavioral disorders (EBD).

Students receiving services through a GNETS Program are referred by their local school system through the Individual Education Program (IEP) process. An IEP team may consider in-class services by a GNETS program for a child with an emotional and behavioral disorder based upon documentation of the severity of the duration, frequency and intensity of one or more of the characteristics of the disability category of emotional and behavioral disorders (EBD). This documentation must include prior extension of less restrictive services and data which indicate such services have not enabled the child to benefit educationally. For children receiving in-class services, local schools are actively involved and exit criteria are developed upon entry into the GNETS program.

TCSS Procedures

- Students who exhibit severe emotional and behavioral deficits should have targeted interventions in place to address their emotional/behavioral needs.
- A FBA must be conducted and a BIP must be developed.
- Data must be collected on the interventions. Most of our students will respond to the interventions. There might be one who may have a history of emotional problems that is so severe that his needs are not being met in the typical school setting.
- When a school determines that a Burwell referral may be appropriate for that student, the exceptional education chairperson or case manager contacts the Director of Exceptional Education, and invites her/him to attend an IEP meeting.
- The IEP team must include the following people: special education teacher, general education teacher(s), a LEA representative, school psychologist, a representative from Burwell and parents.
- If the IEP team agrees that the student should be referred to Burwell, the referral form will be completed at the meeting.
- Case manager should send the referral packet to the appropriate records clerk at EEC.
- Upon receiving the referral, the Burwell Program conducts evaluation of the student to determine eligibility into the program.

In rare situations, a general education student may exhibit severe emotional/behavioral distress that may warrant consideration into the GNETS program. In those situations, efforts must be taken to address the behaviors at the school level involving the school psychologist, conducting a FBA and developing a BIP. If the student continues to exhibit severe behaviors that are in danger to himself/herself or others, a Tier 3 meeting should be conducted. In addition to the typical Tier 3 team which includes teachers, school psychologist, Tier 3 chair, and other members of the team, the director of exceptional education, director of student services, the school psychologist, parent(s), and a representative from the GNETS program should be invited to the meeting. The team will determine future actions.