

## Philosophy of Education

To obtain this goal, each student should be helped to assess his/her individual abilities, interests, and potential. Through direction and guidance, education should help these attributes for each student:

- \* Ability to think creatively, independently, reflectively, and responsibly.
- \* The ability to interpret and control real life experiences.
- \* Should prepare the individual for the world of work in such ways as to highlight skills and strengths.
- \* Be continuous from birth and available to everyone.
- \* Educate the whole individual for a balanced, well rounded, and complete life.

## Graduation Incentives

Students wishing to enroll in the Benson Area Learning Center must meet at least one of the GI criteria.

- Performance substantially below average on a local achievement test
- At least one year behind in completing coursework satisfactorily.
- Pregnant or a parent.
- Chemically dependent.
- Physically or sexually abused.
- Experienced mental health problems.
- Experienced homelessness in the last six months.
- Limited English proficiency of speak English as a second language.
- Excluded or expelled by a school district. (ages 12 to 15)
- Chronically truant or have withdrawn from school.
- Referred by your home district.

Enrollment in the Area Learning Center will be limited to 30 pupil units. The percentage of special education students will be no greater than that of the mainstream.

B E N S O N   A R E A  
L E A R N I N G   C E N T E R

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## BENSON AREA LEARNING CENTER



*Benson Public  
Schools  
District #777*

Benson Public Schools  
1400 Montana Avenue  
Benson, MN 56215

When you BELIEVE in  
yourself ANYTHING is  
POSSIBLE.

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## Academics

The Benson Area Learning Center, located in the Benson High School, is designed to accommodate specific student educational needs such as work-related training, reading, mathematics, science, communication, social skills, physical skills, employability, study skills, life skills or cultural awareness.



Personalized learning plans are developed for each student that qualifies under one of the Graduation Incentive requirements..

Students will have the opportunity for academic instruction; counseling; and work experience training.

The academic curriculum may include; English; social studies; science; math; and various electives. Grades in the ALC will be de-emphasized as much as possible. Students must, however, demonstrate proficiency in their curriculum by means of continuous assessments.

## Independent Study

Independent Study is designed to meet individual needs of students who may require an alternative method of study. Students exploring the Independent Study option need to meet specific requirements. Students will choose courses from the existing curriculum to fulfill credit obligations. Independent study will provide students with an opportunity to amend their school day to meet obligations associated with parenting, jobs or other matters. Evaluation and progress is determined upon completion of subject assignments based on student performance. Teacher/student contact time should be a minimum of 20-25% of the reported membership. For continuity purposes these meeting must occur on a weekly basis so that if the student is doing the work incorrectly, there is teacher assistance/intervention so that the student is not reinforced on how to do a task incorrectly.

## Summer Session

A summer session, lasting approximately four weeks, is offered to both mainstream and ALC students depending on their needs. A targeted services program for grades K-8 is also offered. Students in Targeted Services will focus on math and reading skills.

*The ultimate goal is to allow an alternative program for students so they may receive a high school education.*

## Vocational Education

The work experience program at Benson High School is designed to meet the needs of students who wish to be involved in the job market.

### WORK EXPERIENCE

Description: Work experience is a course that will assist students in developing job seeking skills. Students will be required to take a curriculum which would include such skills as: interviewing; job search; resume writing; and job keeping skills. Job placement will be coordinated with classroom activities.

The work experience option will be available to students as course schedules are adopted. Students will pass their academic courses in order to receive credit for their work experiences. This will promote the importance of a high school education in relationship to the labor force.

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