

## Staff Members

Jessica Granger  
*Special Educator*

Heather Queen  
*School Psychologist*

Dani Bond  
*Speech-Language Pathologist*

Jill Severino  
*Occupational Therapist*

Dorothy O'Rourke  
*Coordinator of Special Education*

The Hillsboro-Deering  
Alternative Education  
Program strives to  
effectively meet the needs  
of students with significant  
emotional and behavioral  
challenges.

The Hillsboro-Deering  
Middle School Alternative  
Education Program  
provides opportunities for  
students to grow to reach  
their highest potential.

## Hillsboro-Deering Middle School Alternative Education Program



# HDMS

Hillsboro-Deering Middle  
School  
6 Hillcat Drive  
Hillsborough, NH 03244  
603-464-1120

## Curriculum

Students in the Alternative Education Program work within the grade-level general education curriculum for all content areas.

Accommodations and/or modifications are provided as outlined in the Individual Education Plan.

## Related Services and Community Partnerships

Students in the Alternative Education Program may receive speech-language therapy, occupational therapy and/or psychological services as determined by their individual needs.

Collaboration with students' physicians, mental health providers and other community service providers is encouraged.

## Program Overview

The Hillsboro-Deering Middle School Alternative Education Program is designed to support students who are identified with emotional disabilities and who require significant support in order to make progress, access general education classes and activities as much as possible, and achieve success.

Students receive their education in the setting that allows for the greatest possible access to the grade-level general education curriculum with the fewest possible restrictions (called the "least restrictive environment"). The amount of time students spend in the Program is based on individual needs. For example, students may access the Program when needing an alternative work area, when receiving instruction, or when receiving support to de-escalate and process difficult situations.

## Behavioral Supports

The Alternative Education Program uses a trauma-informed behavior analysis approach to understand the purpose of student behavior and the situations that trigger and reinforce problematic behaviors. Staff are then able to design and implement interventions to support students' needs while providing opportunities for growth and stability.

Students receive individual and/or group interventions that are designed to target many skills, including:

- ◆ Understanding learning needs
  - ◆ Self-advocacy
- ◆ Working and playing in groups
- ◆ Understanding others' perspectives
- ◆ Managing emotions and behaviors
  - ◆ Organizing belongings
- ◆ Tracking and completing assignments
  - ◆ Setting and reaching goals
  - ◆ Making compromises
  - ◆ Solving peer conflicts
- ◆ Communicating with others