

Aberdeen Central High School/Northern State University About the Program

What is the Transition Learning Community?

The Aberdeen Central High School has entered into a partnership with Northern State University to create a unique program for students who desire independence. The Transition Learning Community (TLC) program is one option available for special education students, 18-21 years old, who want to work toward achieving their post-school outcomes. The college atmosphere, with same-age peers, creates an opportunity to plan a transition to adulthood through continued education, work experience, and leisure experiences.

Who can attend?

Students on an IEP that have completed all the classes required to graduate are encouraged to apply. Students should not have received a signed high school diploma. These students have walked through their graduation ceremony but still need to gain some skills to see success in life. For Aberdeen students, the initial determination to make an application to attend TLC is discussed at the IEP meeting, and then when all application materials and interviews are complete, a final determination on placement will be made. For out-of-district students, the decision is determined after their application, current IEP, and current evaluation are reviewed and an interview is held. Applications are due by February 16, 2018. These interviews usually take place in February or March. If accepted, the student's home school district will pay the student's tuition, of \$16,000, to attend the TLC program.

How long can students attend?

Depending on how many years of remaining special education eligibility a student may have, students may attend one or two years. Some students may attend one year and have gained the confidence to move on to regular college or adult life. Most students attend up to two years and move on to Project Search and/or independent living. Out-of-district students may attend up to two years.

Where do students live?

If a student is selected into the TLC program, they may live in McArthur-Welsh Residence Hall at NSU. These rooms have two beds, a study desk with a desk light, shelves and dressers on each side of the room and separate closets with full length mirrors. The current rate for McWelsh Hall will be \$1821.10 per semester. There is also a communal bathroom, along with lounge and kitchen areas. Pay laundry facilities are shared. The students arrange to live in the halls and agree to the fees that NSU charges, as well as to follow the same guidelines as any other NSU student living in the residence hall. In addition, students who opt to live in the residence hall are responsible for purchasing a meal plan (currently \$1825.35-\$2101.85 per semester). The TLC program can help students make these arrangements. Northern State University can also make the determination that students must move out of the residence hall if students do not behave appropriately. If students do not reside on campus, they can live at home or in their own off-campus apartment. There is also a Commuter meal plan option for those living off campus.

Who supervises the student living?

The students coming into the TLC program must have enough independent living skills to handle making simple meals, get along with roommates, and to act appropriately without adult supervision. At Northern, the Residence Life Program staff members provide not only safe, clean, and secure housing, but a variety of opportunities to form relationships and help residents become true members of the community. The TLC does use the residence hall as a classroom for learning to clean, vacuum, do laundry and provide social skills during the school day. The TLC students have the same rights and responsibilities as NSU students. TLC is not a residential program. Students must be able to fill their evening and weekend time and manage their own behaviors. *The Aberdeen School District is not responsible for supervision of student living.*

What about classes?

TLC classes may be similar to Job and Transition, Work Experience, Consumer Math, Life Science, Leisure and Recreation Skills, and other classes as determined by the IEP team (such as Driver's Education instruction, etc).

What about college classes?

All incoming, first year TLC students will participate in parts of Welcome Week. Welcome Week is designed to help new student feel at home at Northern. To promote post-secondary experiences, students are then required to take (as an audit or for credit) at least one course per year. This is a student expense. Northern State University limits the number of credits a student in the TLC program can take per semester to six.

Do the students have jobs?

The students will get a job on their own or have a Project Skills job, a work experience program sponsored by the Dept of Rehabilitation. Students use public transportation to get to and from work, or they may drive. Employment is a huge component of transition and students must be willing to work. Most students are placed in employment settings by October 15 of the school year.

Job coaching will be available for one week, to assist students who need support in learning their job. After this time, all students must be able to perform their job duties independently.

Who pays for meals?

If a student attends the TLC program and lives on campus, they are required to purchase a meal plan. They will be able to choose from either the Wolf 200 (200 meals in the Wolves Den plus \$330 of flex dollar per semester) or the Wolf 150 (150 meals in the Wolves Den and \$400 flex dollars per semester). The 2017-2018 cost for these plans are \$2,101.85 and \$1825.35, respectively.

Also, as part of the Life Science class, the students will plan a menu, make a shopping list, shop for groceries, and pay for their own groceries. They then use those groceries to prepare their noon meal. This is done approximately one time every two weeks. The days they do not cook, students living on campus will use their meal plan in the Wolves Den, and students living off campus may purchase lunch in the Wolves Den or bring their own lunches to eat.

Can I still go out for Special Olympics?

For those students that qualify and want to participate, Special Olympics bowling, basketball, swimming, and track and field are available.

Are computers provided?

Students are encouraged to bring with them a laptop with basic Microsoft Office and Internet capabilities installed.

What happens when a student completes the TLC program?

Students are connected to the needed adult or college services. Students are issued their high school diploma or may move to the Project Search program, which is highly encouraged. For out-of-district students, a letter is sent to your high school principal informing the school that you have completed your coursework and a signed diploma can now be issued to you. It is requested that your transcript can be marked to indicate you are a graduate.

Criteria for Acceptance into the Central High School/Northern State University Transition Learning Community

- The student must be between the ages of 18 and 21.
- The student must have completed 4 years of high school but have waived their right to receive a diploma until completion of the TLC program.
- The student must actively be working toward the goal of becoming an independent member of society (ex. seeking paid employment, preparing for a driver's license test).
- The student must have a good work ethic (attendance, willingness to take direction, work a job)
- The student must be able to function with **minimal** supervision and support.
- The student must demonstrate appropriate behaviors in community settings (college campus, etc.)
- The student must be respectful of the NSU college students as they pursue their degree.
- Parental involvement is encouraged (support child's independence and paid employment, attend meetings, return paperwork, overall support).
- The student must have letter of recommendation from a teacher, facilitator, or building administrator.
- The student must be willing to participate in career experiences on or off campus for approximately 10-20 hours per week. Only minimal, on-site job coaching may be provided.
- A signed contract between the home school district and the Aberdeen Public School is needed to pay \$16,000 for 2018-2019 to attend the day program of the TLC program. Out-of-district students may attend two years.

Acceptance is determined by the transition committee upon review of the application, student information form, IEP, transcript, current special education evaluation, attendance and discipline records, and appropriateness of placement for the student (least restrictive environment). Please also include 1 letter of recommendation. The student will go through an interview process and will then be informed of his/her acceptance. Aberdeen students get preference to openings available, if their attendance is deemed appropriate, and the decision to attend is determined as a part of their IEP team meeting. Out-of-district students then fill the other openings. We determine the interviews of out-of-district students based on a file and application review.

AGREEMENT BY SCHOOL DISTRICT

My school is aware of the \$16,000 per year charge that is to be paid by them if I attend the TLC day program. Their signature indicates we have discussed these charges. A contract will be issued to the school on my acceptance into the TLC program. The school is aware that in order to attend the TLC program a student must have all the high school credits they need to graduate. The school signature indicates a willingness to pay fees and to verify that the student will receive a diploma/certificate from their home school upon completion of the TLC program.

(Special Ed Designee)

(Special Ed Teacher)