Frequently Asked Questions

How do I sign up a student?
Referrals must come through the IEP process. A member of the student's educational team can reach out to Director of Education Kimberly Holmes, and request a referral form.

Does the student still receive a diploma from their local high school?
All credits are transferrable and approved by each local school administrative unit. Students who attend the Sweetser school receive a diploma from their sending school.

Who pays for this?
The cost of our educational services is covered by the sending school, or the Department of Education, if the student is in the custody of DHHS.



How long does a child attend the school?
We have rolling admissions. A child's placement is based on their individual needs. The multidisciplinary team determines the focus of treatment and academic programming to identify what goals need to be met to be ready to return to public school.

What is the school schedule?
Students attend Monday-Thursday, 8:30 AM -2:30 PM, and Friday, 8:30 AM-12:00 PM.

Where is the school located?
Our flagship campus is located at 50 Moody Street in Saco alongside our Ricker Farm, outdoor recreation, and crisis and residential programs.

Sweetser is a behavioral health nonprofit that provides evidence-based treatment, support & hope through a statewide network of community-based mental health, recovery, & educational services.



Questions & Referral Contact

207-294-4949 • school@sweetser.org
50 Moody Street, Saco, Maine 04072
Learn more at Sweetser.org/SacoSchool

@sweetsermentalhealth • @sweetsermaine

Sweetser

Special Purpose Private School

Specialized K-12 Education

Our special purpose private school in Saco is a specialized school, approved in Maine as an out-of-district placement, which provides educational programming and crisis stabilization for students who are unable to access their education in a less restrictive setting.

We serve K-12 children identified as needing special education services through an Individualized Education Plan (IEP), and who have a broad range of behavioral, social, emotional, and mental health needs. Students who are served in our Day Treatment Program require an IEP. We also provide programming for children who meet the criteria in our children's residential program.

Our staff provide academic, social, and emotional learning. We collaborate with families and school districts to develop a comprehensive plan that best serves each student's needs. Our multidisciplinary team approach fosters student success and growth.

Sweetser

Learn more at Sweetser.org/SacoSchool

Treatment in a Classroom Setting

Our clinicians provide a dynamic, individualize treatment plan, which can include individual, group, and family therapy. Many of our clinicians have additional training in TF-CBT, ARC, play therapy, and other evidence-based practices.

Program Benefits



The educational environment at our campus is highly therapeutic. All students receive a comprehensive academic and therapeutic program individualized to their needs. Students have access to an individualized academic program overseen by a certified special education teacher who is also trained in mental health and positive behavioral supports. Our team is trauma informed, trained in Therapeutic Crisis Intervention, and follows the CARE model of service. They include:

- Behavioral health professionals
- Occupational therapists
- Speech therapists
- Psychologists
- Licensed Clinicians



One-of-a-kind Experiential Learning Program



Our Experiential Learning program distinguishes Sweetser from other special purpose private schools by providing students with hands-on learning through an individual project-based curriculum. The program offers specially designed instruction in reading, writing, math, and science. Students have the opportunity to develop academic, social, and behavioral skills necessary to reach their individual goals. Examples of programs offered include:

- Farm Science
- Engine Technology
- Woodshop
- Culinary Arts
- Media Arts
- In class curriculum-based experiences
- And much more!

