

DISTRICT 211 HIGGINS EDUCATION CENTER OFFERS CENTRALIZED LOCATION FOR MULTIPLE SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS



The District 211 Higgins Education Center, 1030 W. Higgins Rd., is undergoing renovations to house programs that were either outside of District 211 boundaries or did not have a permanent structure. The building will offer greater efficiency of support, administration, transportation services, and utilization of the District's facilities.

District 211 offers several special education programs that meet the needs of its students and community, and for the first time many of those programs will be housed in one centralized building.

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"The centralized location of the Higgins Education Center will allow us to serve our students within the District and local community, as well have access to a greater number of District resources," said Renée Erickson, director of Special Education at District 211. "We are grateful for the District's commitment to providing educational opportunities and transition programming to students, as locally as possible."

In August 2015, the building will be home to the Adult Transitions Program-South program, currently located on the grounds of Hoffman Estates High School, District 211 Academy-South, and New Endeavors, a new program designed to serve students who demonstrate behaviors and characteristics along the autism spectrum.

Relocating these programs to the newly renovated building will provide added space and offer multiple benefits as a result of the proximity to the facilities at Hoffman Estates High School. The Academy-South program is currently housed in a leased facility outside of the District 211 boundaries. The ATP Program-South has been accommodated in a pair of repurposed trailers in the east parking lot of Hoffman Estates High School since 2009. Many of the students who will enter the New Endeavors program may have previously been educationally placed outside the District, into either the Miner School program through Northwest Suburban Special Education Organization (NSSEO) or private therapeutic day schools.

“We are very excited about the opportunity before us to build upon our existing practices and programs and to bring multiple programs under one roof,” Erickson said. “While each program within the Higgins Education Center will serve a specific population of students, the opportunity to bring students together as part of a new and unique school community is just thrilling.”