River Rock Academy

2025-2026
SCHOOL YEAR

Impact Report

Celebrating Our Community:
The Stories and Numbers Behind Our Year



River Rock Academy by the Numbers

Across Pennsylvania, River Rock Academy provides alternative and specialized education for students whose academic, behavioral, and emotional needs require additional structure and support. River Rock combines small classes, behavior-focused intervention, and therapeutic services to help students build skills, make progress, and prepare for their next step.



River Rock Academy was built on the belief that every student deserves a chance to learn in an environment that understands their needs. I am continually inspired by the growth of our students and the dedication of our teams.

– **Brandon Hoff**, VP of Operations,
River Rock Academy

892
Students Enrolled

12
Campuses

20+
Schools & In-District Programs

97%
District Satisfaction Reported in Annual Survey

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River Rock Academy

Programs Built Around Every Student's Next Step

River Rock Academy partners with school districts across Pennsylvania to provide alternative and specialized education for students with special education, behavior support, and emotional support needs.

Private Academic Licensed (PAL)

Small classes of 12 or fewer, led by certified special education teachers, for students in grades K-12 who need a structured setting with strong academic support.

Counseling & Therapeutic Services

Individual and group counseling, Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT) informed practices, and mindfulness and emotional-regulation instruction integrated throughout the school day.

Family & District Partnership

Ongoing collaboration through Individualized Education Plan (IEP) meetings, attendance plans, and regular communication with families and district teams.

Alternative Education for Disruptive Youth (AEDY)

Pennsylvania Department of Education-approved placements for students in grades 6-12, combining academic instruction with behavior-focused intervention.

Transition Planning

Individualized, data-driven plans tied to each student's IEP that prepare students to return to their home district or life after high school.

Student Enrichment

Equine therapy, Ripple Effect programming, the Choices program, community service, and career exploration with guest speakers.

NEW

School Readiness

Expanding River Rock Academy's continuum to earlier grade levels, School Readiness applies our structured, data-driven approach to build the academic, behavioral, and social-emotional foundation younger students need before they reach secondary grades.



Student Growth and Development

These outcomes reflect the progress students made during the 2025–2026 school year in academic learning, individualized goals, engagement, and preparation for their next educational or postsecondary setting.

79%

Courses Mastered

Shows student progress in standards-aligned academic coursework and whether students are successfully mastering instructional content.

85%

Goal Progress

Reflects progress toward each student's individualized academic, behavioral, communication, and functional goals.

78%

Attendance

Provides insight into students' ability to consistently access instruction, participate in the school day, and build productive routines.

244

Successful Transitions

A student completed their program, graduated, returned to their district, or achieved their individual goals, the outcome that gives purpose to everything we do.

SUPPORTING EACH STUDENT'S GROWTH

Curriculum & Student Support

River Rock implemented the Houghton Mifflin Harcourt (HMH) English Language Arts curriculum and Wayfinder social skills curriculum across campuses, strengthening academic alignment while supporting students' social-emotional learning and development.

Data-Informed Decision-Making

Standardized data tracking and twice-annual Campus Site Meetings improved visibility into academic and behavioral outcomes, helping teams identify areas for improvement and strengthen consistent practices across campuses.

> **The staff at River Rock is responsive when we need a placement and communicative throughout the placement. Our families are pleased with the communication and support during an AEDY placement. Our students return from placement and typically experience success in our district schools.**

– **Public School Administrator**,
River Rock Academy Red Lion Elementary

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The People Behind Every Student's Progress

Teachers, counselors, behavior coaches, and support staff make River Rock Academy's model possible.



309
Total Staff

95%
Staff Satisfaction

"I love the people I work with in my building. We have a positive culture all around and great relationships with students."

– Teacher, River Rock Academy Amity Campus

RESOURCES TO SUPPORT OUR TEAMS

Clinical Services Development

River Rock provided Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT) training for counselors, strengthening clinical programming and staff capacity to support students' social, emotional, and behavioral needs.

Instructional Leadership

River Rock added a Director of Teaching and Learning to strengthen instructional leadership, support curriculum implementation, provide coaching to educational staff, and improve academic oversight.

Staff Collaboration & Continuous Improvement

Cross-functional committees brought staff together around mentorship, climate and culture, clinical services, behavior management, and curriculum and instruction, strengthening collaboration and staff involvement in continuous improvement.

Growing the Continuum Across Pennsylvania

River Rock Academy continued to expand access during the 2025–2026 school year, growing both campus-based and in-district programming to support more students and district partners across Pennsylvania.

3

New In-District Classrooms

1

New Campus

4

Campus Expansions

THIS YEAR'S MILESTONES

- **River Rock Academy expanded its continuum** by adding three new In-District classrooms in Spring Grove, Harrisburg, and Ferndale, bringing specialized programming directly into district schools.
- **In Indiana, River Rock opened a new 14,000-square-foot campus** and expanded its services with a newly awarded Private Academic License, allowing the school to serve students in grades K–12 while continuing to provide Alternative Education for Disruptive Youth (AEDY) services for grades 6–12. The building includes dedicated elementary and secondary classrooms with additional space for future growth.
- **River Rock also expanded its Newville, Amity, Spring Grove, and Lancaster campuses,** increasing classroom capacity and providing greater flexibility for districts to meet evolving student placement needs throughout the school year.



"Our goal at River Rock Academy is to create a school environment where students can reset, rebuild skills, and make progress academically and behaviorally.

– **Brandon Hoff**,
Vice President of Operations,
River Rock Academy

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Supporting Students Back to the District

The instructional investments highlighted throughout this report support a larger goal: helping each student build the academic, communication, behavioral, and functional skills needed for their next setting. River Rock Academy works with families and districts to monitor progress and determine when a student may be ready to move to a less restrictive environment, return to their home district, or transition into the next educational or postsecondary setting. Below are the steps we take to prepare students for transition.

Step 1: Signs of Readiness

The student demonstrates readiness through sustained academic or behavioral progress, improved self-regulation and social skills, consistent participation, and greater independence.

Step 2: Decision Making

The team reviews the student's progress and collaborates with the family and district to determine readiness for transition planning.

Step 3: Transition Planning

The team creates a personalized transition plan that supports the student's successful return to the district setting.

Step 4: A Step-by-Step Return

Reintegration occurs gradually, with consistent support that decreases as the student succeeds.

Step 5: Successful Reintegration

The student successfully returns to the district setting and participates with growing independence and appropriate support.

Step 6: Follow-Through and Communication

River Rock Academy maintains communication with the family and district to support continuity and adjust the plan as needed.



River Rock Academy

For more information, please visit
riverrockacademy.net

OUR CAMPUSES

- Amity
- Bradford County
- Clifton Heights
- Cressona
- Indiana
- Lancaster
- Newville
- Red Lion
- Shiremanstown
- Sinking Spring
- Spring Grove
- Williamsport

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