Sage Alliance Schools

2025-2026
SCHOOL YEAR

Impact Report

Celebrating Our Community:
The Stories and Numbers Behind Our Year



Sage by the Numbers

Sage Alliance Schools' and Thrive Alliance Group's in-district clinical teams work side by side to meet New Jersey students exactly where they are—whether that's inside a Sage campus or directly in their home district.



This year, our teams across Sage and Thrive found new ways to meet students where they are—from launching new programs to addressing school refusal. These efforts expanded our ability to support students across both organizations, helping them reengage in learning, build confidence, and find their footing.

– **Samantha Messer**,
Regional Vice President,
Sage Alliance Group & Thrive Alliance Group

120
Students Enrolled

4
Campuses

14
In-District Programs

100%
District Satisfaction Reported in Annual Survey

© New Story. All Rights Reserved.

Programs Built Around Every Student's Next Step

Sage Alliance Schools (Sage) provide a distinctive therapeutic education model that meets each student's academic, social, and emotional needs, built around four core pillars:

State-Aligned Academics

Sage's curriculum aligns with the New Jersey Student Learning Standards in math, science, social studies, language arts, and electives. Small classes, with student-to-teacher ratios as low as 6:1, allow instruction to be tailored to each student's strengths. Each student's program is guided by an Individualized Education Program (IEP), developed collaboratively with the student, family, Child Study Team, teachers, therapists, and administrators.

Integrated Therapies

Individual, group, and family therapy are integrated into Sage's five-day school week. Our certified clinicians collaborate with teachers to align therapeutic and academic support, and with families and outside providers to ensure consistent care across school and home.

Career and College Planning and Preparation

Beginning in junior year, Sage's College & Career Transition program helps students plan for life after graduation through college application support, scholarship guidance, and SAT and ACT preparation. Every graduate leaves with a defined plan for college, career certification, employment, or military service.

School Refusal Expertise (STEPS Program)

Drawing on nearly three decades of experience supporting students experiencing school refusal, Sage introduced STEPS, a program designed to help students attend school consistently when anxiety, depression, or other emotional barriers make it difficult. The program includes gradual exposure and an individualized approach to overcoming school refusal.

NEW

Deepening Our Clinical & Creative Programming

This year, Sage deepened its clinical expertise with expanded psychiatric services, and broadened its creative programming with new Culinary Arts, Studio Arts, and Digital Music Production programs, giving students more ways to build confidence and skills beyond the core curriculum.



Student Growth and Development

These outcomes will 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.

86%

Courses Mastered

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

87%

Progress Toward Individualized Goals

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

81%

Attendance & Engagement

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

100%

Graduation Rate

Successful completion of high school gives students the knowledge, skills, and credentials needed to pursue further education, employment, and greater independence.

100%

Post-Secondary Plans

Demonstrate that each student has a clear path toward college, employment, training, or the military.

> **Because of this deeply collaborative and tireless approach, we have seen significantly better student outcomes—both behaviorally and academically. Students who were once struggling to navigate the school day are now finding success, feeling supported, and thriving in the classroom environment.**

– **Heather Church**, Special Education Teacher, Wharton Borough Public Schools

© New Story. All Rights Reserved.

The People Behind Every Student's Progress

Teachers, clinicians, counselors, and support staff that support students in their home schools, and in ours.



89
Total Staff

96%
Staff Satisfaction

"I enjoy working with bright, committed, and supportive colleagues, as well as professional, knowledgeable, and supportive educational and clinical leadership. Most importantly, I value watching our students grow and develop throughout their four years with us."

– Sage Alliance Rochelle Park Clinician

RESOURCES TO SUPPORT OUR TEAMS

Growing Our Own School-Based Social Workers

Sage Alliance launched a Social Work Intern Program this year—currently placing interns from Ramapo College, at the undergraduate and graduate level. The program meets students' required internship hours while building Sage's own pipeline of future social workers. Sage plans to broaden the partnership to additional schools and universities going forward.

Expanding Our Clinical Professional Development

Thrive Alliance Group expanded professional development for its clinicians this year, growing its professional development resource library and establishing regular professional development meetings throughout the year. Thrive is also actively pursuing Continuing Education Unit (CEU) approval for its professional development sessions, which will make that training available to partner districts as well.

Growing Access & Impact Across New Jersey

Sage Alliance Schools and Thrive Alliance Group both grew this year. Sage opened a new school in New York City, expanding into a new state for the first time. Thrive expanded its mental health programming to two more school districts.

1

New Campus

3

New In-District Programs

THIS YEAR'S MILESTONES

- **Sage opened a new campus** in New York City
- Built out dedicated space for the January 2027 launch of a **new elementary Emotional Regulation Impairment (ERI) program**
- Psychiatric services have been expanded across **Sage Alliance's New Jersey schools** to provide medication management and reduce barriers to care for students.

"The therapeutic approach—meeting my anxious, ADD, school-avoidant daughter where she is and tailoring her day and interventions to fit her needs—is amazing. As parents, we've learned to put our trust in the experts at the school. We love both the parent groups and the student groups; therapeutic, music, art, track, and more. I love the individualized scheduling that allows my daughter to have both art and music, since that's what gets her to attend more often.

– Rochelle Park Parent



© New Story. All Rights Reserved.

STEPS: Supporting Students Back to the Classroom

- An estimated 22% of U.S. K-12 students were chronically absent (missing 10% or more of the school year) in 2024-25 (RAND Corporation)
- Anxiety-based school refusal specifically is estimated to affect between 1.5 million and 3 million school-aged children nationally (Anxiety and Depression Association of America)
- Rising student anxiety and depression since the pandemic have been identified as a leading driver of the increase in chronic absenteeism (RAND Corporation)
- In New Jersey specifically, the statewide chronic absenteeism rate was 14.9% in 2023-24 (New Jersey Department of Education)

This year, Sage introduced STEPS, a new school avoidance program designed for students who struggle to attend school consistently because of anxiety, depression, or other emotional barriers. STEPS pairs individualized, school-based intervention with active family partnership, helping students rebuild the confidence and coping skills they need to return to the classroom.



NEW

Two new initiatives extend that same family-centered approach across Sage this year:

- A new Family Council, giving parents and caregivers a direct, ongoing voice in shaping the Sage experience for their students
- An enhanced Family Therapy program, deepening the family sessions that are already part of every student's therapeutic plan



Sage Alliance Schools

For more information,
please visit **sagealliance.com**

SAGE ALLIANCE SCHOOLS

- Paramus
- Rochelle Park
- New York City
- Mahwah

THRIVE ALLIANCE GROUP IN-DISTRICT SERVICES

Thrive Alliance Group places certified, school-based clinicians directly inside partner districts, providing school-based mental health counseling—individual, group, and family therapy along with staff and district-wide training—to strengthen schools and support students and staff.