

# Serving Students with Special Needs & Circumstances with Excellence

APLUS+ members are tuition-free, public charter schools that serve a diverse student population including many low-income, foster youth, homeless, and special needs students.

## Students Excel in a Flex-Based, Personalized Learning Environment

Many students who struggle in a traditional classroom have found great success in a flex-based, personalized learning environment as they receive instruction that is tailored to their needs. Our schools welcome and support all students and ensure they have the resources necessary to succeed in school. Often, this includes connections to food pantries and social services, referrals to housing programs and shelters, internet reimbursement programs, and much more.

**58%**  socio-economically disadvantaged

**15%**  students with disabilities

**6,311**  English learners

**2,596**  identify as being homeless

## What our students and families say about our programs

### Meet Sadie, Shyanne, Seriah, and Julian

*family at Connecting Waters Charter School*



Sonya (mom) is excited to homeschool because she feels she can teach each child where they're at and help them bridge their gaps quicker than a traditional brick-and-mortar school. She expressed that after being homeless for two years, they would get pushed through the system. Sonya set up a whole learning area as a classroom in their home where she can teach each child and give them their own workspace.

### Meet Talitha T.

*age 15, student at Connecting Waters Charter School*

"As a homeless student classified as "gifted and talented," the personalized learning model and support that Connecting Waters Charter School has provided me has been invaluable. I have been able to take community college courses as well as AP and CTE courses, while still taking regular classes at my grade level. **Having an unstable living situation means that daily life is often unpredictable, but thanks to the varied lecture times and flexible hours and schedule, I have been able to complete assignments and attend my classes.** Though my family is still faced with hardship and insecurity, I am currently on track to graduate high school with an Associate of Science in Chemistry, an Associate of Science in Physics, and an Associate of Arts in Mathematics. I don't think any of this would be possible as a homeless student without the unique structure of Connecting Waters."



### Meet Nancy C.

*grandmother of students at Connecting Waters Charter School*

"Nevaeh is in 6th grade and is on a 504 plan and Trey is in 3rd grade on an IEP. Last year, they were both behind in their grade levels. I have seen much growth in their attitudes, how they handle situations, and how they are doing academically. Both seem more content, confident, and proud of themselves. **The steady commitment, flexibility, expertise, guidance, and caring has allowed my grandchildren to thrive at their own pace which has cut down on undo stress and frustrations.** No doubt they would have been lost in a different school setting."

### Meet Silvia M.

*parent of a 2nd grade special education student at River Oaks Academy*

"Ever since I put my son into River Oaks Academy, I have been impressed with the amount of comfort for my child and myself. We have had support with his IEP and staff starting when we walk onto campus. I used to be afraid to drop him off at his old traditional school, so I would walk him in. Now I can drop him off because ROA "sees" him and welcomes him in. **It is so flexible for a student with Autism. It used to be hard to get him to write and now he writes. His needs are met, seen, heard, and he has the support he needs.**"



### Meet Lucely F.

*parent of a 3rd grade English Learner student at River Oaks Academy*

"I appreciate River Oaks because it has been such a great help for my girl, at first I had a doubt, but **Mrs. Brooke (teacher) was so understanding about my daughter's anxiety and she was able to get counseling for my daughter.** Two years at River Oaks, and we will continue here."

Name: Lucy

Grade: 5<sup>th</sup> ms Jenn's class

### I ♥ MY SCHOOL BECAUSE...

My old school made me feel anxious, stressed out and just like some random student. But here at i shine they help me stay calm and healthy but most importantly they make you feel loved and apart of a family. They provide easy learning, sweet and caring friends and staff. No one judges you for your differences but instead help you embrace them! I shine is a great place to make memories, friends and happiness! We celebrate holidays, birthdays, and even staff members in the fun ways! We hope you'll enjoy I shine! we'll be waiting for you!

### Meet Olivia A.

*9th student at River Oaks Academy, whose test scores increased by four grade levels in the two years she has been enrolled*

"At River Oaks I get to choose what materials I work on and can do them at my own pace which makes homework a lot more enjoyable. **Having freedom and control over what I work on makes me a lot happier and successful at school.**"



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