

**CARVER PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
**Special Education Department**

**Graduation Assistance Program (GAP)**

*Services high school students at risk of not graduating due to social emotional issues*

Students are accepted into the program in one of two ways:

- Students with identified special needs may enter through the IEP process
- Students not in special education can gain acceptance from the oversight committee for GAP, which is made up of a group of administrators, counselors, special educators, and regular educators. Referrals can be made by staff or parents.

**Mission:**

The mission of the Graduation Assistance Program, or GAP, is to support students who are at-risk for not meeting graduation requirements, including those exhibiting academic underachievement, attendance issues, social-emotional issues, substance abuse issues, and/or are experiencing a family crisis.

**Components of the class may include:**

The special needs lead teacher, the program adjustment counselor, and a paraprofessional work collaboratively to meet the needs of each student. The program provides specialized academic and social-emotional supports that are not as readily accessible to the typical mainstream student. The program employs a point-and-level system, where academic effort and pro-social behaviors are recognized and reinforced, resulting in the ability to earn incentives within the school day. Additionally, the program provides a daily supported study, inclusion supports as needed, regular check-ins with the program adjustment counselor, and weekly group counseling sessions focusing on issues relevant to at-risk teen populations (i.e., anger management, substance abuse, healthy relationships, etc.). Finally, the program provides ongoing school-to-home communication, collaboration with relevant general education staff, individualized program planning, and other instructional accommodations and modification to increase the chance of academic success. A variety of district therapists are available as needed (i.e, speech and language, behavioral, occupational and physical).