

Mountain View Achievement, Integrity, and Maturity (AIM) 2023-24 Program Profile

Program Overview

AIM stands for "Achievement, Integrity, and Maturity." The school culture, climate, and instructional practices embody each of these attributes. The Mountain View AIM program exclusively serves students in grades 7-12 who have been referred by the Division Superintendent's Hearings Office, the School Board, or an individualized education program team following a disciplinary hearing due to serious violations of the code of conduct outlined in the Student Rights and Responsibilities document (Regulation 2601). These students, who have been deemed a safety and security risk to other students, might otherwise have been unable to continue to work toward graduation. The Mountain View AIM program is conducted in a small setting to ensure student safety and to build strong relationships to address any academic and/or social/emotional needs of all students.

Due to restrictions placed on the students in response to the disciplinary infraction that resulted in placement, AIM students are assigned for a probationary period. Students may have the opportunity to return to a comprehensive school setting by maintaining good attendance, exhibiting appropriate behavior, modeling good citizenship both at school and in the community, and earning satisfactory grades. The goal of the AIM program is to ensure that all students make academic progress and develop executive functioning skills for success in traditional school and work settings. To accomplish this, the AIM staff builds positive relationships with the students while maintaining high expectations in all academic areas.

Mountain View AIM is staffed with five teachers, including a lead teacher and a special education teacher. English Learners (ELs) are supported by an itinerant English for Speakers of Other Languages teacher on a regularly scheduled basis. Students are taught ethical behaviors, career-research, job-acquisition, workplace-communication, self-awareness, self-advocacy, customer-service, and life skills.

To increase program capacity for the maximum number of students, while maintaining a safe and secure learning environment, the AIM program operates two 3.25-hour sessions daily on a year-long schedule where students can earn 6 or more credits a year. Multiple sessions allow for separate sessions for students who may have been involved in the same incident or to separate younger students and female students from older male students. Each student participates in one session on-site and is expected to work remotely for an additional 2.5 hours at home. The self-paced nature of the AIM program and flexible schedule affords students the time needed to learn academic material, accelerate in their course work, or if necessary, recover credits. Mountain View AIM students receive an FCPS-issued laptop to access digital resources and participate in learning tailored to the student's individual needs. At its core, it provides equitable access to meaningful learning experiences and technology to support learning. Individualized scheduling based on student need is always considered.

Mountain View AIM utilizes a digital curriculum as the framework for daily instruction, coupled with supplemental materials which enhance the learning experience. The digital curriculum allows students to access the curriculum 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Differentiated curricula and teaching strategies which stress critical thinking skills and problem solving are integrated with the digital curriculum resulting in a blended learning delivery of academic course

offerings. The sequence of courses in each of the disciplines provides a continuous and balanced academic program.

When enrolling at Mountain View AIM, each student's academic needs are reviewed in order to maintain progress toward graduation. Each student, working with program staff, sets goals and course schedules to allow the student to progress academically. Each student is encouraged to pursue three or four courses at a time, with a total of six to eight credits upon completion of the school year.

If circumstances warrant (that is, the student is significantly over age for his or her current grade level), the option of enrolling in an ISAEF (Individual Student Alternative Education Plan) program may be considered, contingent upon Hearings Office approval. The ISAEF program provides an opportunity for eligible Fairfax County Public School (FCPS) students aged 16 or older to take the high school equivalency test, specifically known as the GED® test, at an earlier age and receive career education instruction. All students will also learn skills that will improve their workplace behavior.

Mountain View AIM students respond well to the structure of the program and the respectful, encouraging relationships they form with AIM teachers. Students successfully meet high expectations for behavior and self-control. Many students experience academic success for the first time in their school careers while attending the AIM program: improved grades, successful completion of Standards of Learning end-of-course tests, as well as other diploma requirements. These successes are recognized and celebrated.

Past graduates of the program have enrolled in college, enlisted in the military, or garnered full-time employment. Graduates maintain contact with the teachers in the program relying on the strong relationships they have developed with trusted adults to communicate celebrations or challenges.

Mountain View AIM operationalizes the Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) framework in order to generate sustainable outcomes through practices that support students, systems that support staff, and continuous data-driven decision making. AIM uses data-informed practices and support systems that address the needs of the whole learner in academics, behavior, and social-emotional wellness through both high-quality core instruction as well as timely, targeted, and systematic intervention across all three areas.

Classroom management plans are developed using restorative justice practices and Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports as components of the MTSS framework. These best practices help to establish a positive culture and climate that provide equitable opportunities for learning.

Demographics

During the 2022-23 school year, 32 students received instruction in the Mountain View AIM program.

- Minority (non-white), 91%
- Eligible for special education services, 25%
- English Learners (1-4), 75%
- Male, 100%
- Over-age for grade level, 31%
- Graduates 4

Current Focus

Looking towards next year, Mountain View AIM staff will continue to work collaboratively to support and engage students when they arrive through SEL lessons, support groups, and individualized goal setting conferences. We will continue to meet as a staff daily to discuss student needs and strategies to increase attendance and engagement, grading for equity, and trauma-informed responses to student behavior.