

# Astor Learning Center Designated as School of Excellence for Third Consecutive Year

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*National Association of Special Education Teachers Honors Special Needs School in Rhinebeck*



*Astor Learning Center (Courtesy of jwArtWorks LLC)*

For the third consecutive year, [Astor Services for Children & Families](#) announced that its Astor Learning Center, located in Rhinebeck, NY, was selected as a 2020-2021 National Association of Special Education Teachers (NASSET) School of Excellence. Serving thousands of children and families throughout the Bronx and Hudson Valley, the nonprofit offers residential and early childhood programs, community-based behavioral health and prevention services.

The highest level of recognition awarded by NASET, the School of Excellence accolade is conferred to select qualified licensed private special education schools that meet rigorous professional standards and demonstrate outstanding dedication, commitment and achievement in the field of special education.

“Our dedicated staff work tirelessly to ensure that our students are getting the necessary individualized care and services to flourish academically, as well as socially and emotionally,” said **Tiffany Helms**, Astor Learning Center’s director of education. “We believe that every child deserves a childhood and are honored and humbled to be recognized by NASET for our hard work and commitment to the children we serve.”

First awarded with NASET’s School of Excellence award in 2018, Astor Learning Center provides students with the opportunity to excel and achieve their goals through intensive, individualized special education classes facilitated in a safe and nurturing atmosphere. Offering small class sizes for students who have struggled to thrive in conventional school settings, the school provides steadfast emotional support, social skills training, speech/language and occupational therapy/counseling. Children in Astor’s residential programs in Rhinebeck and day students from nearby counties are among those served by Astor Learning Center, which was founded in 1980 and has notably been named a Blue Ribbon School by the U.S. Department of Education three times.

### **About Astor**

Since 1953, Astor Services for Children & Families has been providing behavioral and educational services in a caring environment where children and their families find strength, healing, hope and trust. The organization, which has been accredited with The Joint Commission’s Gold Seal of Approval, now serves more than 10,000 children and families annually in more than 70 locations. Astor’s range of services in the Hudson Valley (Dutchess, Orange and Ulster counties) and the Bronx include: Residential Programs; Early Childhood Programs; and Community-Based Behavioral Health and Prevention Services. Visit the organization online at [www.astorservices.org](http://www.astorservices.org)