

## ASAH Member Schools

Allegro School, Inc.  
Alpine Learning Group, Inc.  
ARC - Dorothy B. Hersh High School  
ARC Essex - Stepping Stones School  
ARC Union - Kohler School  
Bancroft School  
Bancroft of Haddon Heights  
Banyan School  
Benway School  
Bergen Center for Child Development, Inc.  
Brookfield Academy  
Calais School  
Catholic Community Services -  
    Mt. Carmel Guild Preschool  
    Mt. Carmel Guild School  
    St. Anthony's School  
    St. Leo's Center  
    St. Patrick's School  
Center School  
Cerebral Palsy Center of Gloucester & Salem Counties, Inc.  
Cerebral Palsy of Monmouth & Ocean Counties, Inc.-  
    Lehmann School  
    Schroth School  
Child Development Center  
Children's Center for Therapy & Learning  
Children's Center of Monmouth County  
Children's Day School of Family Guidance Center  
The Children's Home - Mary A. Dobbins School  
The Children's Institute  
Children's Specialized Hospital  
Collier Services/Collier High School  
Community High School  
Community School of Bergen County, Inc.  
Community School of Family Connections  
CPC Behavioral Healthcare -High Point Schools  
CP Association of Middlesex County -Lakeview School  
CP Center of Bergen County  
Creative Achievement Academy  
Daniels & Associates, Inc.  
David Gregory School  
Durand Academy  
East Mountain School (Carrier Clinic)  
ECLC of New Jersey  
Eden Family of Services  
Education Academy  
Essex Valley School  
Felician School for Exceptional Children  
The Forum School  
Githens Center  
Green Brook Academy  
High Road Schools  
Holmstead School

Horizon School - CP of North Jersey  
Hunterdon Learning Center  
Institute for Educational Achievement  
JCC on the Palisades Therapeutic Nursery  
Kingsway Learning Center  
Lakeside School  
LARC School, Inc.  
Learning Center for Exceptional Children  
Lord Stirling School  
Matheny School and Hospital  
McAuley School for Exceptional Children  
The Midland School  
Montgomery Academy  
Newgrange School  
Newgrange Educational Outreach Center  
Palisades Learning Center  
The Phoenix Center, Inc.  
Princeton Child Development Institute  
Ranch Hope/Strang School  
Rock Brook School  
THE RUGBY SCHOOL at WOODFIELD  
School for Children at Monmouth University  
School for Children with Hidden Intelligence  
SEARCH Day Program, Inc.  
Somerset Hills School  
Spring Run School  
St. John of God Community Services  
St. Joseph's School for the Blind  
Stepping Stone School  
Summit Speech School  
Therapeutic Learning Center  
The Titusville Academy  
Willowglen Academy  
Woodcliff Academy  
Y.A.L.E. School  
    Cherry Hill Campus  
    Corbin City Campus  
    Williamstown Campus  
Youth Consultation Services  
    Division of Juvenile Justice Services  
    Ernest M. May Academy  
    Fort Lee Education Center  
    George Washington School  
    Middlesex Education Center  
    Middlesex Education Center (Annex)  
    Therapeutic Learning Center  
    Title I Day Care Center Program  
    Transitional Education Center of Morris County  
    Virginia H. Sawtelle Learning Center  
    Virginia H. Sawtelle Learning Center - Annex  
    Franklin School  
    Midland School  
    Ridge Ranch School  
    West Bergen TLC  
You & Me School

**The more  
you know,  
the better  
you are able  
to advocate  
for your  
child.**



ASAH is a non-profit association of over 100 private schools and agencies serving more than 8,000 students with a full range of disabilities. ASAH's member schools and agencies are approved by the State of New Jersey to provide special education.

For over one hundred years, private schools in New Jersey have been providing excellence in special education services to children with disabilities. ASAH is dedicated to improving the lives of its students, acting as an advocate for them and promoting excellence in special education.

ASAH knows that students with disabilities are best served when parents and school districts work together in an atmosphere of respect and collaboration. To do *your* part, you must be informed of your rights and your responsibilities. To learn more or to request information on ASAH publications, please call or write to us:

**ASAH**  
**2125 Route 33, Lexington Square**  
**Hamilton Square, NJ 08690**  
**voice: 609-890-1400**  
**fax: 609-890-8860**  
**(Toll Free) 1-877-287-ASAH**  
**www.asah.org**

## Every Child Has Rights



## And So Does Every Parent

**What  
Parents  
need to know  
to secure  
a free  
appropriate  
education  
for their *child*  
with disabilities**





## Every child is unique...

Federal and state laws guarantee all students with disabilities the right to special education and related services designed to address their unique needs. Services and supports must be individualized for each student and cannot be refused for reasons of cost or local availability.

### Special education can include:

- individualized instruction
- smaller classes & low student/teacher ratios
- specialized teaching strategies and instructional materials
- extended school year instruction
- full day instruction for pre-schoolers
- transition services to prepare teens with disabilities for work and adult life

### Related services include:

- physical and occupational therapy
- speech therapy
- psychological and social work services
- testing for and fitting hearing aids
- vocational services
- transportation to and from school
- assistive technology and specialized equipment.

## The Individualized Education Program: The Cornerstone of Your Child's Special Education

After your child has been evaluated, a team of professionals from your school district - the Child Study Team (CST) - will meet with you to develop an Individual Education Program (IEP). Parents are a full and equal partner in this process. The IEP will describe the special education and related services your child will receive.

### This plan will describe in detail:

- individualized goals and objectives
- transition services, if your child is over 14
- related services your child needs and the frequency and duration of those services
- the length of the school day and academic year
- the kind of learning environment your child needs
- where your child will attend school - this is known as *PLACEMENT*. Placement is determined



after the goals and objectives are developed and after you and your CST have agreed on the nature and scope of the services and supports your child needs.

## A Full Range of Options

Your child has the right to be educated in the setting that is appropriate to his or her needs as described in the IEP. The law says that students with disabilities must be educated in the Least Restrictive Environment (LRE). This means that you and your school district must begin the discussion of your child's placement by first considering the supports and services that would allow your child to be educated in a regular classroom. But just because a placement is in a regular classroom, or is close to home, does not make it an appropriate choice - nor does it make it the least restrictive setting. The placement selected for your child must meet all of your child's needs. If this cannot be done in a regular classroom with supports, other options must be considered. These include:

- a program in which your child spends all or part of the day in regular classes, with or without supports, and the remainder of the day in a resource center;
- a special class for students with disabilities in your local school district;
- a special class in another school district, or a regional or county-based special service or vocational school;
- an approved private school that specializes in educating children with disabilities;
- a hospital or other medical setting, or home-based instruction;
- a non-sectarian, non-public school that is not specifically approved for students with disabilities; and,
- a residential school.

## Parents Have Rights Too

As the parent of a child with disabilities, you have the right to:

- be kept informed of action taken or planned by the school district affecting the education of your child;
- access school records concerning your child, and request that irrelevant records be destroyed;
- be notified in writing of any meeting concerning your child;
- participate as an equal partner in meetings concerning the evaluation, IEP, and placement of your child;
- visit proposed placements, observe classrooms and ask questions;
- disagree with recommendations of the school district, including their recommended placement or the related services;
- request an independent evaluation of your child by professionals who are not employees of the school district;
- request due process or mediation to resolve disputes and disagreements. Your school district is required to give you a copy of the PRISE document (Parents' Rights In Special Education) which explains your rights in easy to understand language.