

The Private School Option for Students with Disabilities



*What
Parents
Need to
Know*

The Private School Option for Students with Disabilities...

What Parents Need to Know

Choosing an appropriate environment for your child with a disability can be one of the most important decisions you make. It can also be one of the most emotional and confusing. This brochure is designed to help you weigh what you want and provide some facts about one of your child's options ... a private special education school.



A History of Success

Since 1895, private schools have been providing a high quality special education for children with disabilities in New Jersey. Many private schools were started by parents just like you, who wanted a unique environment which offered highly specialized instruction and services. Today, there are over 160 private schools which are approved and monitored by the State of New Jersey. They serve over 11,000 students with a full range of disabilities between the ages of 2 and 22.



“I had a dream for my son, and I wanted him to be around others who shared that dream.”

One of Your Options

Federal and state laws require that your local school district offer all children with disabilities a full continuum of options. This continuum includes placement in a private school. If it is determined that a private school is the appropriate setting for your child, your school district pays the tuition and provides transportation to and from the school.



“After we developed the IEP, my Child Study Team and I looked at a number of schools, both public and private. It became clear that the only place that could meet my child’s needs was a private school.”



“My input is valued here. The teachers, the Director, everyone really cares what I think. They actually WANT me to come into the school to observe my child.”



Exceeding Parents' Expectations

If you are like most parents, you are looking for a few basic things in a school for your child with disabilities. These include:

- A school that has a positive history of educating children with disabilities like your son or daughter.
- A school that sees your child for who he or she is, with unique talents and strengths, and unique challenges.
- A school that can implement your child's IEP and can meet your child's educational needs.
- A school with a multi-disciplinary approach to educating children and youth with disabilities.
- A school in which teachers have high expectations for all of their students.
- A school with access to the technologies and cutting-edge teaching strategies that can make a difference.
- A school with a network of community referrals to support your family and your child beyond the school day, and after graduation.
- A school that values parent participation and recognizes it as essential to the success of a child.
- A school that offers the same Core Curriculum Content Standards as those required in public schools.

Private schools for students with disabilities can offer this and more.

Meeting the Unique Needs of Students with Disabilities... One at a Time

Private schools for children with disabilities exist for one reason - to serve children with disabilities. They are creative, flexible environments that can tailor their educational program to meet the needs of each child. Many offer children a full range of related services, such as speech, physical and occupational therapies, and assistive technology. Many serve children who have not succeeded in other settings. And because they are small, the entire staff at a private school can really get to know each child.



*“Everyone, from the
Executive Director to the
janitor knows my daughter.
It’s like having an extended
family at school.”*

The Teachers Make the Difference

Private school teachers are uniquely qualified, energetic and motivated. They became teachers because they love children and they know that they can make a difference in the life of a child. They chose to teach at a private school because they want to have the opportunity to teach smaller classes with students who they know personally. There, they are encouraged by other teachers and administrators who value their commitment, skill and talent. The internal network of support at a private school, and the high moral it generates, helps to create an environment of success for all.

“Private special education has brought incredibly caring and gifted people into our lives.”



Offering Specialized Services

Private schools can provide a full range of supports and services that prepare students with disabilities to be fully participating members of their families and communities.

- Community integration and community-based instruction
- A full range of therapies and related services
- Family support, such as parent education, parent support groups, and sibling groups
- Extended school year instruction
- Smaller classes
- Low student/staff ratios
- Unique transition service which guide a student from school to adult life
- College preparation for students who will pursue post secondary education
- Community-based work experiences
- Formal and informal “linkages” to adult service providers for students who will likely need on-going support and services into their adult years
- Camp and recreational experiences

*“I don’t know what I would do without the support
I get from my daughter’s school.”*

Supporting Students as They Transition Back to Public Schools

Many students with disabilities need private special education for a period of time, and then make the transition to another setting - often the local public school. In fact, a recent research study found that 49% of the students who transferred from a private school returned to district educational programs. Private schools can provide highly individualized training, technical assistance and support to insure that this transition goes smoothly and successfully, for the student, the family and the new teacher.



*“When they first suggested that my son was ready to go back to a regular classroom, I hesitated. But during the transition period, the private school staff came with him. They provided some training to his new teacher too. She welcomed the support and now my son is part of **her** classroom.”*

Measuring Success With Positive Outcomes for Students

Private schools measure their success not just by the number of graduates, but by what those graduates can do with their lives. For some students that may mean going on to school or technical training. For others it means getting a job or a community volunteer experience. For others, it means securing adult day services and supports. Whatever the desired outcome, private schools are setting the pace. A recent research study found that only 4% of the students graduating from private schools did not have plans for further education, training employment or community programs.

“I never really thought about George getting a job. I always thought he would go into some kind of day time program for adults. But he is employed now and he’s really happy.”

It has been great for his self esteem. . . And I am really proud of him.”



ASAH Member Schools

Atlantic County

Y.A.L.E. School
Southeast

Bergen County

Alpine Learning Group
Bergen Center for Child Development, Inc.
Children's Therapy Center
Community High School
Community School of Bergen County
David Gregory School
ECLC of New Jersey
Felician School for Exceptional Children, Inc.
The Forum School
Holmstead School
Institute for Educational Achievement
JCC on the Palisades Therapeutic Nursery
Learning Center for Exceptional Children, Inc.
Palisades Learning Center
Youth Consultant Services
 YCS- Fort Lee Education Center
 YCS-George Washington School
 YCS- Middlesex County Annex
 Education Center
 YCS- Virginia Sawtell Learning
 Center Annex
 Franklin School
 Midland School
 Montclair School
 Ridge Ranch School
 YCS- West Bergen TLC

Burlington County

The Children's Home - Mary A. Dobbins School
Garfield Park Academy
Githens Center
Midway School
Y.A.L.E. School North, Inc.

Camden County

Bancroft
 Pre-school-Haddon Heights
 The Bancroft School
 Preschool - Lebensfeld Center
 Bancroft School at Voorhees Pediatric
 Facility
Brookfield
 Brookfield Academy
 Brookfield Elementary
 Brookfield Transition to College
Kingsway Learning Center
LARC School, Inc.
Y.A.L.E. School - Cherry Hill Campus
YCS- Sawtell Learning Centers- Collingswood

Cumberland County

Creative Achievement Academy

Essex County

ARC Essex Stepping Stone
Banyan School

Essex continued

Catholic Community Services (CCS)
CCS- Mt. Carmel Guild Preschool
CCS-St. Anthony's School
CCS- St. Leo's Center
CCS- St. Patrick's School
Child Development Center
The Children's Institute
Community Healthcare Network - Therapeutic
School & Preschool
Deron School of New Jersey, Inc. (II)
Essex Valley School
Horizon School - CP of North Jersey
Lakeside School
Phoenix Center, Inc.
Washington Academy
YCS- Sawtell Learning Center - Montclair
YCS- Therapeutic Learning Center

Gloucester County

Bancroft School - Glenloch Terrace
Cerebral Palsy of Gloucester & Salem Counties
Creative Achievement Academy - Lake Road
School
St. John of God Community Services -
Archbishop Damiano School
Y.A.L.E. School - Williamstown Campus

Hudson County

CCS- Mt. Carmel Guild School
St. Joseph's School for the Blind
YCS- Division of Juvenile Services
YCS- Ernest M. May Academy
YCS- Kearny/Franklin School

Hunterdon County

Hunterdon Learning Center
Spring Run School

Mercer County

Children's Day School of Family Guidance
Center
Eden Family of Services
Newgrange School
Newgrange Educational Outreach Center
Princeton Child Development Institute
The Titusville Academy

Middlesex County

Center School
Lakeview School - CP Association of Middlesex
High Road School
YCS- DHS Regional School - Middlesex Campus
You & Me School

Monmouth County

ARC - Dorothy B. Hersh High School
Cerebral Palsy of Monmouth & Ocean Counties,
Schroth School & Technical Center
Children's Center of Monmouth County
Collier Services/Collier High School
CPC Behavioral Healthcare -High Point Schools
Oakwood School
THE RUGBY SCHOOL at WOODFIELD
School for Children and SFC High School at
Shore Regional
SEARCH Day Program, Inc.
Woodcliff Academy

Morris County

Allegro School, Inc.
The Calais School
Chancellor
Chancellor Academy I
Chancellor Academy II

Morris County continued

Children's Center for Therapy and Learning
ECLC of New Jersey

Montgomery Academy

YCS- Transitional Education Center of Morris
County

Ocean County

Cerebral Palsy of Monmouth and Ocean -
Lehmann School

Education Academy

High Roads School of Ocean County

School for Children with Hidden Intelligences

Passaic County

Benway School

Community School of Family Connections, Inc.

Salem County

Cerebral Palsy of Gloucester & Salem

Ranch Hope/Strang School

St. John of God Community Services - The

Damian O'Shea Children's Center

Somerset County

East Mountain School (Carrier Clinic)

Green Brook Academy

High Road Upper School

Lord Sterling School

Matheny School and Hospital

McAuley School for Exceptional Children

The Midland School

Rock Brook School

Somerset Hills School

Sussex County

Willowglen Academy

Union County

ARC Union- Kohler School

Children's Specialized Hospital

Deron School of NJ, Inc. (I)

Summit Speech School

Warren County

Stepping Stone School

About ASAH

ASAH is a non-profit organization of over 100 state-approved private special education schools serving over 9,000 children and adults with disabilities. ASAH provides resources and referral, parent and student advocacy, legislative initiative and technical assistance.

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