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ASAH is a not-for-profit association of 132 approved private schools and agencies in New Jersey serving children with significant complex disabilities. Contact ASAH to learn more about a full range of private school options and services, and about schools near you. Call 877-287-ASAH (2724).

Or visit us online www.asah.org



Promising Futures

Inside ASAH

Public/Private Partnership Smooths College Transition for Students with Special Needs



Transition to College teacher Eugene Robinson in the program classroom at Camden County Community College.

Dave Walls' work as a Learning Disabilities Teacher Consultant at Washington Township High School – like that of so many special educators – includes an increasing focus on finding and developing programs to help students with disabilities move productively from high school into adult life.

For a growing number of students with disabilities, their transition involves preparing them for continuing education.

“Many of the students that we work with have struggled academically, but have the ability and interest to go on to college,” Walls said. “Recognizing that potential in students, and giving them the practical supports they need is critical to helping them reach that goal.”

Walls believes many classified students can rise to the demands of college, but need help with the challenges – usually social and emotional – that their disabilities present.

Walls has found The Brookfield Schools in Blackwood to be a creative and effective solution. Offered in collaboration with school districts and Camden County College, Transition to College helps classified high school juniors and seniors prepare for the academic and interpersonal challenges of college life. The Brookfield classroom and two counseling rooms

“Many of the children that we work with have struggled academically, but have the ability and interest to go on to college.”

*- Dave Walls,
Learning Disabilities
Teacher Consultant,
Washington Township
High School.*

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State Funding for Extraordinary Costs: Reading Between the Lines

The new school funding law has modified every aspect of special education funding, including funding for 'extraordinary costs.' It has left many districts confused about state reimbursement for higher cost students with disabilities.

In the past, the law called for state reimbursement of 100% of any tuition costs in excess of \$40,000 for every out-of-district special education student. The new law sets two different thresholds for out-of-district placements, based on whether the program is publicly or privately operated. For public programs, the threshold remains at \$40,000; for private programs, the threshold was raised to \$55,000.

What many have overlooked is that the new law also defines **which costs can be counted toward each threshold**. For public programs, the law limits allowable costs to those associated with direct instruction and support. For private programs, the law allows the full tuition to be counted. What does this mean for districts?

Districts considering two identical programs can and should look at cost effectiveness. But in order to do so, they must **not only consider the thresholds, but also the costs that can be counted toward each threshold**.

Consider two identical classes, one public and the other private. Both are deemed appropriate for the student and both have tuitions of \$45,000. Because the private school tuition does not reach the \$55,000 threshold set for private programs, the sending district knows that it is not eligible for extraordinary aid. The public program, with a tuition of \$45,000, may seem to meet the \$40,000 threshold set for public programs, but the sending district must now 'back out' costs not associated with direct instruction and support. Therefore, the amount that can be counted toward the

*What many have overlooked is that the new law also defines **which costs can be counted toward public or private out-of-district thresholds**.*

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threshold of \$40,000 may in fact be only \$38,000. In both situations the district will not be eligible for extraordinary aid.

The new funding law has diminished – not increased – the state's commitment to districts serving students with extraordinary needs. A review of tuition costs of County Special Services Programs reveals that most would not meet the new \$40,000 threshold for public out-of-district programs because costs must be backed out. Similarly, fewer private school tuitions will meet the new \$55,000 threshold, even though their full tuition is counted. The new law also reduces the percentage of reimbursement for out-of-district programs from 100%, as was previously required to 75% of the amount in excess of the threshold.

ASAH believes that districts should make placement decisions according to the requirements of IDEA - in the least restrictive, appropriate setting - without funding incentives or disincentives. Problems such as two different thresholds for extraordinary cost reimbursement unnecessarily complicate that effort.

Gerry Thiers
ASAH Executive Director

ASAH Member Schools and Agencies

Atlantic County

Y.A.L.E. School East, Inc.

Bergen County

Alpine Learning Group, Inc.
Bergen Center for Child Development, Inc.
Children's Therapy Center
Community High School
Community School, Inc.
David Gregory School
ECLC of New Jersey Ho-Ho-Kus
Educational Partnership for Instructing Children EPIC
Felician School for Exceptional Children, Inc.
Forum School
High Point School of Bergen County
Holmstead School
Institute for Educational Achievement
JCC on the Palisades Therapeutic Nursery
Learning Center for Exceptional Children, Inc.
Palisades Learning Center
REED Academy
YCS - Fort Lee Education Center
YCS - George Washington School
YCS - Sawtelle Learning Center - Paramus Annex
Ridge Ranch School - Paramus High School
YCS - Sawtelle Learning Center - Ridgewood Annex
Ben Franklin School

Burlington County

Children's Home - Mary A. Dobbins School
Garfield Park Academy
Githens Center (Burlington County Cerebral Palsy Association)
Kingsway Learning Center Moorestown Campus
Y.A.L.E. School North Inc. c/o Nokomis School

Camden County

Bancroft NeuroHealth Early Intervention Program
Bancroft Pre-School of Haddon Heights
Bancroft Pre-School of Washington Township
Bancroft School
Bancroft School at Voorhees Pediatric Facility
Brookfield Schools
Crescent Hill Academy
Kingsway Learning Center Haddonfield Campus
Larc School, Inc.
Y.A.L.E. School Cherry Hill Campus
Y.A.L.E. School Southeast, Inc.
YCS - Sawtelle Learning Center South

Cumberland County

Devereux New Jersey Comprehensive Community Resources
Pineland Learning Center, Inc.

Essex County

ARC of Essex County Stepping Stones School
Banyan School
Child Development Center
Children's Institute
Deron School of New Jersey, Inc. (II)
Essex Valley School
Horizon High School Cerebral Palsy of North Jersey
Horizon School Cerebral Palsy of North Jersey
Mt. Carmel Guild Academy
Mt. Carmel Guild Middle School
Mt. Carmel Guild School and Preschool Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Newark
Northwest Essex Community Healthcare Network
Therapeutic School & Preschool
Phoenix Center, Inc.
YCS - Independence High School
YCS - Sawtelle Learning Center North
YCS - Therapeutic Learning Center

Gloucester County

Durand Academy and Community Services
HollyDELL School
St. John of God Community Services Archbishop Damiano School
St. John of God Community Services Early Intervention Program
St. John of God Community Services Vocational Rehabilitation/Adult Services
Y.A.L.E. School Williamstown Campus

Hudson County

Concordia Learning Center at St. Joseph's School for the Blind
Mt. Carmel Guild High School
YCS - Ernest M. May Academy
YCS - Sawtelle Learning Center - Kearny Annex
Franklin School

Hunterdon County

Hunterdon Learning Center
Spring Run School Center for Educational Advancement

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Mercer County

Bridge Academy
Children's Day School of Family Guidance Center
Eden A.C.R.E.s
Eden Institute, Inc.
Eden W.E.R.C.s
Newgrange Education Center
Newgrange School
Princeton Child Development Institute
Titusville Academy

Middlesex County

Center School
Lakeview School Cerebral Palsy Association of
Middlesex County
New Road School
Newmark High School
Pediatric Rehabilitation Department JFK Johnson
Rehabilitation Institute
You & Me School

Monmouth County

ARC - Dorothy B. Hersh High School
Children's Center of Monmouth County
Coastal Learning Center - North
Coastal Learning Center - South
Collier Youth Services - Collier Group Home
Collier Youth Services - Collier High School
Collier Youth Services - Kateri Day Camp
Collier Youth Services - Kateri Environmental
Education Center
Collier Youth Services - Project Eco
CPC Behavioral Healthcare High Point Adolescent
School
CPC Behavioral Healthcare High Point Elementary
School
LADACIN Network Schroth School & Technical
Education Center
Oakwood School
Rugby School at Woodfield
School for Children
SEARCH Day Program, Inc.

Morris County

Allegro School, Inc.
Calais School
Celebrate the Children
Chapel Hill Academy
Daytop Preparatory School
ECLC of New Jersey Chatham
Montgomery Academy
P.G. Chambers School

Ocean County
Coastal Learning Center - Tuckerton Campus
Education Academy
LADACIN Network Lehmann School and Technical
Education Center
New Road School of Ocean County
School for Children with Hidden Intelligence (SCHI)

Passaic County

Banyan Upper School
Passaic County Elks Cerebral Palsy Elementary School
Passaic County Elks Cerebral Palsy High School

Salem County

HollyDELL School
Ranch Hope/Strang School
St. John of God Community Services The Damian
O'Shea Children's Center

Somerset County

Bonnie Brae School
East Mountain School Carrier Clinic
Green Brook Academy
Lord Stirling School
Matheny School at the Matheny Medical and
Educational Center
McAuley School for Exceptional Children
Midland School
New Road School of Somerset
Rock Brook School
Somerset Hills Learning Institute
Somerset Hills School

Sussex County

Willowglen Academy - NJ, Inc.

Union County

Arc Kohler School
Cerebral Palsy League Come Play and Learn Early
Childhood Center
Cerebral Palsy League CPL Adult Services
Cerebral Palsy League Jardine Academy-Cranford
Campus
Cerebral Palsy League Jardine Academy-Union
Campus
Cerebral Palsy League Kaleidoscope Early
Intervention Program
Children's Specialized Hospital Preschool/Primary/
Early Intervention Programs
Deron School of New Jersey, Inc. (I)
Newmark School
Summit Speech School at the F.M. Kirby Center

Warren County

Stepping Stone School Elnorah, Inc.

Transition to College: Partnerships Yielding Results continued from cover

are located on the Blackwood campus of Camden County Community College (CCCC). Staffed full time by two certified special needs teachers and a social worker, it serves around a dozen students.

“The direction and support the students get from Brookfield makes the difference. They learn the landscape and the expectations, and that college is attainable for them, and that they can do well here.”

*- Fred Capello,
Dean of the Division for
School and Community
Academic Programs,
Camden County
Community College*

to support their studies, and are free to explore academic courses according to their own interests. The students’ classroom is organized in conference style, and is well-equipped with laptops and smartboards.

Fred Capello, Dean of the Division for School and Community Academic Programs, is the CCCC Liaison to the program. “We like the program because it provides the College with students who have had a great deal of preparation,” he said. “When they transition in, they’re ready, and consistently perform well. The direction and support they get from Brookfield makes the difference. They learn the landscape and the expectations, and that college is attainable for them, and that they can do well here.” Nearly all of the students enroll at CCCC when they graduate high school. A follow-up study is planned to learn about longer term outcomes.

Walls points to his ongoing relationship with Brook-

The students complete their high school core curriculum – usually the junior and senior year – while simultaneously taking college courses. They receive an array of support services including: individual and group therapy, tutoring, and instruction in various life skills such as time management, budgeting, problem solving and culinary arts. They have full use of the campus facilities

field staff as the key to the public/private collaboration’s success. “The staff has helped us to be an active participant in the transition process, with regular contact regarding the students, and helping us to work with students as self-advocates. We’re involved throughout the process, including working with CCCC when necessary to support our students.”

“We take our responsibility to the students very seriously,” says Dr. Dorothy K. Van Horn, Executive Director of the Brookfield Schools. “For many, the Transition to College program gives them a chance to believe in themselves for the first time.”

The key to the program’s success, says VanHorn, is the open and involved collaboration between the school district, Brookfield and Camden County Community College.

The program is a recipient of the New Jersey School Boards Association’s and ASAH’s “Innovation in Special Education Award.” To learn more about the Transition to College program, visit www.brookfield-schools.org/11-12.html.

“The key to the program’s success is the open and involved collaboration between the school district, Brookfield Schools, and Camden County Community College.”

*- Dorothy K. Van Horn
The Brookfield Schools*



ASAH's 32nd Annual Conference: November 14 "Building the Future, One Student at a Time"

ASAH will hold its 32nd annual conference on Friday, November 14, 2008. More than 1,500 educators, caregivers, representative of service organizations and family members of those with special education needs are expected to attend.

The Keynote Address will be given by motivational speaker and author, Ed Agresta. His presentation is titled "How To Get Your Students To Think Like Einstein, Create Like Da Vinci, and Invent Like Edison."

"Think, Create, Invent," is a "walk-away" presentation. Everyone in attendance will be able to take away tangible strategies that can be implemented as soon as they return to their school, their classroom, or their office. NO THEORY, only practical down to earth tools that you can use right now, without breaking your budget. "We all came on different ships but now we

are all in the same boat," says Agresta. His strategy is to leverage achievement through team work.

Agresta's presentation is high impact, high energy, high content, and high interactive exercises, mixed with just a dash of lecture, and spoonfuls of humor and aha experiences. This presentation will translate thriving and not just surviving into achievement in the classroom by using the 4 A's + 3 Aha's approach.

Registration includes breakfast, lunch and parking for the day of the conference at the Atlantic City Convention Center garage (onsite garage only). Discounts/limited sponsorships are available to parents. Conference begins at 8:15 a.m. with registration/breakfast and concludes at 3:30 pm. For further information and/or to register please visit ASAH at www.asah.org.

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