

# The Truth About Cost

ASAH's comparative cost study – which was verified by independent auditors – incorporates **ALL** costs borne by taxpayers. The study revealed that, on average, placement in an approved private school:

-  **Costs 31% LESS than a county-based special services program.**
-  **Costs 10% LESS than local public school special education classrooms.**
-  **Cost 24% LESS than it would cost a local public school were it to provide the same level of service as an approved private school.**

*Data from 2011 ASAH Cost Study*

Like public schools, **private schools are regulated and monitored** by the New Jersey Department of Education. Regardless of cost, federal law requires that all placement decisions be made based on a student's unique needs, as described in his or her Individual Education Program (IEP). For most students, special education can be provided within the local school district. But for students with more complex needs, placement in a private school may be appropriate. No matter where a student attends school, all special education services and supports – including placement in a private school – are provided at no cost to parents.

# About ASAH

ASAH is a not-for-profit organization of 150 private schools and agencies in New Jersey that provides highly specialized services to more than 11,000 infants, children and young adults with disabilities.

Since 1974, ASAH has served private special education schools and agencies in New Jersey, ensuring the highest standards of service excellence for students and youth with disabilities. ASAH works closely with its members and the New Jersey Department of Education to develop policy, promote effective educational practices, and foster productive collaborations between private schools, public school districts, and communities. We also advocate for legislative and regulatory changes that improve the quality of life for individuals with disabilities and their families.

With a focus on the needs of students, ASAH works to foster partnerships between its members, local school districts and local communities. We know that these collaborations not only enhance the quality of education programs, they ensure that students with disabilities are served in the least restrictive setting, and have the greatest chance of returning students to public school settings.



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# GREAT OUTCOMES GREAT VALUE

## Private Special Education Programs

*We have great outcomes because we specialize in preparing students with disabilities for life.*

**That is ALL we do.**



# GREAT OUTCOMES

Researchers at Johns Hopkins University School of Education found that students with disabilities who graduate from ASAH-member private special education schools have better young adult outcomes than their public school counterparts.

The study — modeled after a national study funded by the U.S. Department of Education — tracked students with disabilities two years after they graduated.

When compared with students who attended public school programs, graduates of ASAH-member private schools were **more likely to be working or attending higher education**. And, they were **less likely to be involved with the criminal justice system** or hospitalized for psychiatric reasons.

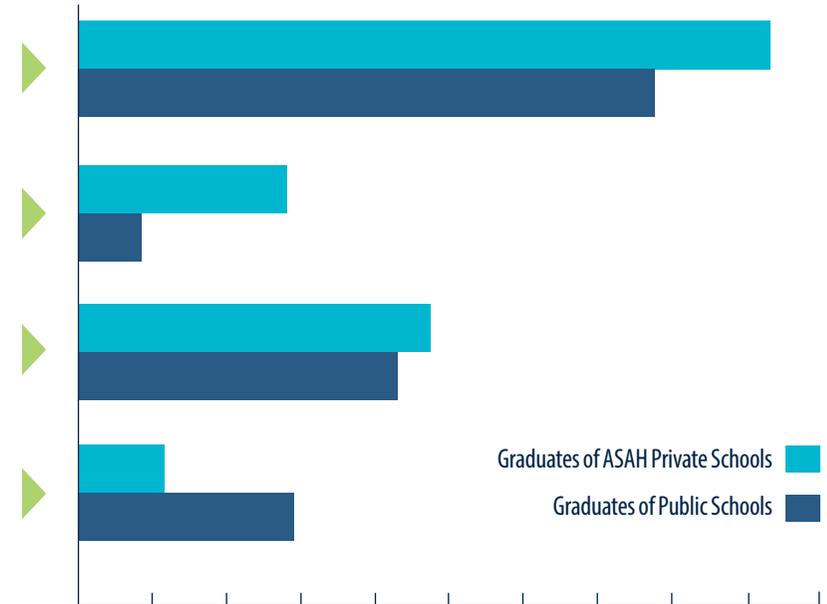
## OUTCOMES FOR GRADUATES WITH DISABILITIES

**Community Engagement** - 92% of graduates from private special education schools reported some form of community engagement compared with 79% of public school graduates.

**Post Secondary Education** - 14% of graduates from private schools were attending post-secondary education facilities compared with 4% of public school graduates.

**Employment** - 48% of graduates from private schools were employed compared with 43% of the public school graduates.

**Justice System** - Far fewer alumni from private schools were involved with the criminal justice system (11% compared to 29%).



*Collaborative Postschool Outcome Study for Maryland and New Jersey: Tracking Outcomes for Students with Severe Emotional/Behavioral Disabilities Enrolled in Nonpublic Special Education Facilities. John Hopkins School of Education.*

# GREAT VALUE

**Private special education programs are less costly to taxpayers, when all costs are considered.**

For years, it was wrongly assumed that public special education cost less. But published tuition rates tell only part of the story.

Public school tuition rates **exclude pension, social security, health benefits on retirement, facilities construction and associated debt service** – costs

that are paid by taxpayers through state and/or county tax dollars.

**Private school tuition rates include all costs.**

This accounting difference allows public schools to report special education tuition rates that are lower than the full actual cost to taxpayers – **and that makes the costs appear to be less than private schools.**

