

Letter from Executive Director:

Changing the Future,  
One Child at a Time

Since the 1800s, private special education schools have been serving hard-to-serve students with autism, cerebral palsy, learning disabilities, Down syndrome and other intellectual disabilities, mental illness, and social, behavioral and emotional disabilities.

Like the children and teens we serve, ASAH member private schools come in all shapes and sizes, and each one is unique.

Some are quite small, serving only thirty or forty students. Others are large, with a roster of more than 400. Some operate in church basements, others, in renovated office parks, and historic refurbished buildings; some operate in modern 21st century buildings and some even operate in rented space in public schools. Some have only a few classrooms, while others have multiple campus locations. Some were started by parents and dedicated educators; others grew from faith-based organizations looking to make a lasting change for children with disabilities. And some were started by a husband and wife team who risked their own homes and assets to make a dream come true. Some are non-profits, with volunteer boards donating time, talent and resources, while others are family-owned businesses. Each has its own culture and unique approach to intervention.

Whatever their differences, there is a thread that binds ASAH member schools – a deep and unwavering commitment to educating children with disabilities for whom there are few appropriate options. A promise to work in partnership with sending districts, parents and post-secondary provider agencies to help ensure positive outcomes. A passion for evidence-based special education, and accountability for the students we serve.

We come from many places, but we are all moving in the same direction, building a collective history of cost effective, positive outcomes for children who need us.

Gerry Thiers

ASAH Executive Director



A Special Thanks to  
ASAH's Founding Members

Archway School  
Bancroft School  
Bergen Center for Child Development  
Bonnie Brae School  
Center School  
Collier School  
Community School  
ECLC of New Jersey  
Midland School  
Mount Carmel Guild School  
Princeton Child Development Institute  
Ranch Hope Strang School  
St. John of God Community Services

Allegro School, Inc.  
Alpine Learning Group, Inc.  
ARC of Essex County Stepping Stones School  
Arc Kohler School  
Bancroft Early Intervention Program  
Bancroft School Early Education Program  
Bancroft School  
Bancroft School at Voorhees Pediatric Facility  
Banyan School  
Banyan Upper School  
Benway School  
Bergen Center for Child Development, Inc.  
Bonnie Brae  
Bridge Academy  
Brookfield Schools  
Calais School  
Celebrate the Children  
Center 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 Kaleidoscope Early Intervention Program  
Chancellor Academy  
Chapel Hill Academy  
Children's Center of Monmouth County  
Children's Day School of Family Guidance Center  
Children's Home Mary A. Dobbins School  
Children's Institute  
Children's Institute High School & Young Adult Program  
Children's Therapy Center  
Children's Therapy Center Upper School  
Coastal Learning Center – Atlantic  
Coastal Learning Center – Monmouth  
Collier Services – Collier Group Home  
Collier Services – Collier High School  
Collier Services – Kateri Day Camp  
Collier Services – Kateri Environmental Education Center  
Collier Services – Project Eco  
Community School, Inc.  
Community High School  
Concordia Learning Center  
CPC Behavioral Healthcare High Point Adolescent School  
CPC Behavioral Healthcare High Point Elementary School  
Daytop Preparatory School  
Deron School of New Jersey, Inc. (I)  
Deron School of New Jersey, Inc. (II)  
Durand Academy and Community Services  
East Mountain School Carrier Clinic  
ECLC of New Jersey Chatham  
ECLC of New Jersey Ho-Ho-Kus  
Eden A.C.R.E.s  
Eden Institute, Inc.  
Eden W.E.R.C.s  
Education Academy  
Educational Partnership for Instructing Children (EPIC)  
Essex Valley School  
Felician School for Exceptional Children, Inc.  
First Children  
Forum School  
Garden Academy  
Garfield Park Academy  
Githens Center Burlington County Cerebral Palsy Association  
Green Brook Academy  
Hawkswood School  
High Point School of Bergen County  
HollyDELL School  
Holmstead School  
Horizon High School Cerebral Palsy of North Jersey  
Horizon School Cerebral Palsy of North Jersey  
Hunterdon Preparatory School  
Institute for Educational Achievement

ASAH Member Schools – 2014

JCC Therapeutic Nursery  
Kingsway Learning Center Moorestown Campus  
Kingsway Learning Center Haddonfield Campus  
LADACIN Network Lehmann School and Technical Education Center  
LADACIN Network Schroth School & Technical Education Center  
Lakeview Learning Center  
Lakeview School Cerebral Palsy Association of Middlesex County  
Larc School, Inc.  
Learning Center for Exceptional Children, Inc.  
Lord Stirling School  
Matheny School at the Matheny Medical and Educational Center  
Midland School  
Montgomery Academy  
Mt. Carmel Guild Academy  
Newgrange Education Center  
Newgrange School  
Newmark High School  
Newmark School  
New Road School of Ocean County  
New Road School of Parlin  
New Road School of Somerset  
North Jersey Elks Developmental Disabilities Agency (NJEDDA) Elementary School  
North Jersey Elks Developmental Disabilities Agency (NJEDDA) High School  
Northwest Essex Community Healthcare Network – Therapeutic School & Preschool  
Oakwood School  
Pediatric Rehabilitation Department JFK Johnson Rehabilitation Inst.  
P.G. Chambers School  
Phoenix Center, Inc.  
Pineland Learning Center, Inc.  
Princeton Child Development Institute (PCDI)  
REED Academy  
Rock Brook School  
Rugby School at Woodfield  
School for Children with Hidden Intelligence (SCHI)  
SEARCH Day Program, Inc.  
SEARCH Day Program – Marlboro  
Somerset Hills Learning Institute  
Somerset Hills School  
Spring Run School Center for Educational Advancement  
St. John of God Community Services Archbishop Damiano School  
St. John of God Community Services The Damian O'Shea Children's Center  
St. John of God Community Services Early Intervention Program  
St. John of God Community Services Voc Rehabilitation/Adult Services  
Stepping Stone School Elnorah, Inc.  
Summit Speech School at the F.M. Kirby Center  
The Titusville Academy  
Westbridge Academy  
Willowglen Academy – NJ, Inc.  
Windsor Learning Center  
Windsor School  
Y.A.L.E. School Cherry Hill  
Y.A.L.E. School Medford  
Y.A.L.E. School Northfield  
Y.A.L.E. School Voorhees  
Y.A.L.E. School Williamstown  
YCS - Ernest M. May Academy  
YCS - Fort Lee Education Center  
YCS - George Washington School  
YCS - Independence High School  
YCS - Sawtelle Learning Center – Kearny Annex Franklin School  
YCS - Sawtelle Learning Center North  
YCS - Therapeutic Learning Center  
You & Me School



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ASAH Through the Years

Changing the  
Future, One  
Child at a Time



40  
Years of Success  
ASAH  
1974-2014

www.ASAH.org



# ASAH Through the Years

1911

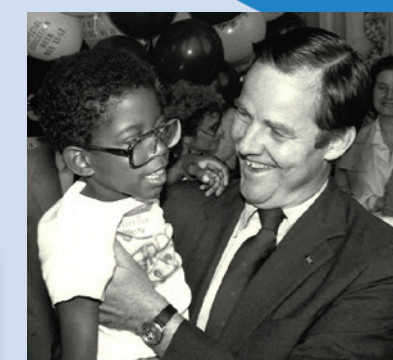
New Jersey becomes the first state in the nation to mandate special education in public schools for children who are deaf, blind, and intellectually disabled.

1974-1984

ASAH is formed in 1974 by 13 private schools as The Association of Schools and Agencies for the Handicapped. One year later, PL 94-142 would be signed into law, establishing a federal mandate for special education.



✓ ASAH's first conference, held at Princeton University, draws more than 200 attendees.



"With the success of these events, we knew we had arrived!"  
Gerry Thiers, ASAH Executive Director from 1983- present



1994-2004

ASAH works to foster partnerships between its members, local school districts and local communities, knowing the collaborations enhance the quality of education programs, and help ensure the greatest chance of returning students to public school settings.

- ✓ ASAH reaches out to work with other special education advocates to push for funding reform.
- ✓ New Jersey establishes a system of "placement neutral" funding for special education.
- ✓ ASAH issues its first outcomes study in 1998 showing that graduates from private special education schools do better along many criteria than graduates from public programs.



2004-2014

ASAH expands and strengthens its parent advocacy and outreach, providing printed materials designed to help parents understand and navigate the special education system.

- ✓ Families applaud ASAH's toll free help line, workshops and seminars and direct advocacy services.
- ✓ ASAH issues its first cost study, revealing private special education services cost New Jersey taxpayers less than comparable services delivered in public school programs. The study is updated and reissued in 2011, with even more compelling results.



1911 1954 1964 1974 1984 1994 2004 2014

1954

The Beadelston Act extends special education services to serve more students with disabilities, and provides state aid.

1964

The Grossi Act allows local school districts in New Jersey to send students with disabilities to private school, with the state providing reimbursement of tuition.



"We knew, with our collective strength we could make a difference."

David Holmes,  
ASAH President from 1976-1980

1984-1994

ASAH's influence in Trenton results in positive changes that allowed private schools to offer more intensive services, and better tailored programs to meet the needs of students.

- ✓ A period of growth and expansion for special education, new private schools are launched to serve a growing number of students with autism.
- ✓ ASAH's conferences continue to grow topping 1,000 attendees.
- ✓ The board votes to purchase a permanent office suite, giving ASAH a presence in the state capitol.



- ✓ In 1984, ASAH hosts its first legislative reception at the Masonic Temple in Trenton, with more than half of all lawmakers in attendance.

- ✓ The following year, ASAH joins forces with New Jersey School Boards Association to host Special Education Week.

- ✓ New Jersey private school educators lead a delegation to Washington DC to take part in national advocacy efforts.



2014

ASAH prepares to enter its 5th decade supporting the private special education community, and is well poised for the challenges ahead.

ASAH's website and social media provide a resource for tens of thousands of visitors every year.



- ASAH Presidents**
- 1974 - 1975 - Adrienne LeFebvre
  - 1976 - 1980 - Dr. David Holmes
  - 1981 - David Sutton
  - 1982 - 1983 - Joseph E. Gorga
  - 1984 - 1987 - David J. Panner
  - 1988 - 1989 - Dennis Cohen
  - 1990 - 1991 - Chet Whittaker
  - 1992 - 1993 - Dr. Steven Krapes
  - 1994 - 1997 - Barbara Strickarz
  - 1998 - 1999 - Dr. Bruce Ettinger
  - 2000 - 2003 - Dominic M. Ursino
  - 2004 - 2007 - Gracanne Hinski-Ryan
  - 2008 - 2011 - Philip M. Gartlan
  - 2012 - present - Dr. Dorothy K. Van Horn