

The Educational Services Commission of New Jersey's

# DIRECTORY OF SERVICES:

# 2023-2024

*Leading The Way In Shared Services*

1660 Stelton Road, Piscataway, NJ 08854 • 732.777.9848



[www.ESCNJ.us](http://www.ESCNJ.us)

# Our Mission Statement

*The mission of the Educational Services Commission of New Jersey is to provide statewide excellence to students in partnership with New Jersey school districts, and coordinate cost efficient purchasing opportunities for educational institutions and municipalities to limit the tax burden on New Jersey residents.*

## The Educational Services Commission of New Jersey's Board of Directors

*The shared services we provide schools, businesses and municipalities would not be possible without the support and vision of our Board of Directors.*

**Dr. Dale G. Caldwell**

**President**

**Dr. David A. Roman**

**Vice President**

### Member Districts

Bergen County Technical  
Schools/Special Services

Carteret

Clementon

Cranbury

Dunellen

East Brunswick

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South Brunswick

South Plainfield

South River

Spotswood

Woodbridge



**Dr. Dale G. Caldwell**  
President



**Dr. David A. Roman**  
Vice President



**Nadia Romano**  
Superintendent

# Directory of Services 2023-2024



## The Educational Services Commission of New Jersey

**Leading The Way In Shared Services**

Dr. Dale G. Caldwell  
*President, Board of Directors*

Nadia Romano  
*Superintendent of Schools*



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# Dear Colleague



Welcome to this year's Directory of Services 2023-2024 guide, formerly the Educational Services Commission of New Jersey (ESCNJ) Shared Services Guide. This directory provides you with business and educational services opportunities available through ESCNJ.

The ESCNJ services provided in this directory include both educational programs and cost-efficient purchasing programs.

Our statewide Co-op Pricing System (Co-op), the largest in the state, is ideal for our contracted vendors who provide quality services for school districts and local and county governments within New Jersey. We have also expanded our purchasing cooperative to include members from Connecticut, Maryland, New York, Pennsylvania and Virginia.

Our contracted vendors provide the latest products and services at reduced cost to the 1,475 members. All members have access to vendors who sell equipment and commodities at competitive prices, lowering taxpayer costs and generating revenue to support learning in the seven ESCNJ specialized schools.

Products and services include gas, electricity, vehicles, internet access, telecommunication and technology products, grounds and maintenance equipment, furniture, security cameras and access systems, custodial supplies, school buses and so much more.

To date, ESCNJ has experienced tremendous growth since its founding in December 1977 as the Middlesex County Educational Services Commission. Expansion from a Middlesex County shared services provider, to a shared services provider offering services to 11 counties statewide, resulted in the ESCNJ Board of Directors requesting a name change in 2005 to the Middlesex Regional Educational Services Commission. Further expansion throughout all 21 counties prompted another name change in 2016 to the Educational Services Commission of New Jersey.

We are very proud of ESCNJ's expansion beyond the classroom, as we have developed many strong, ongoing streams of revenue to keep tuition costs down in our public schools.

For example, ESCNJ manages a Department of Nonpublic School Services, offering specialized, auxiliary and remedial Chapter 192 and 193 student services. Our organization also provides daily transportation to thousands of special, general, public, non-public and vocational-technical students. The Adult Community Services program for participants 21 and over is another area we are looking to expand, thanks to the generous donation from Middlesex County.

We recently reopened the expanded ESCNJ Aquatics and Fitness Center, located on Cheesequake Road in Parlin. The newly-designed, newly-expanded 19,000 sq. fitness center features the latest in strength and cardio equipment, TRX, treadmills, ellipticals, stationary bikes, yoga, spin and fitness classes. The membership includes access to an Olympic-sized pool and personal training.

The Professional Conference Center is a state-of-the-art facility in the heart of Middlesex County. The conference center, located on our main campus in Piscataway, is the ideal venue for meetings, retreats, school districts, community and corporate use.

The financial support generated from the conference center and the aquatics and fitness center will offset the costs associated with the stealer learning programs offered at ESCNJ.

We urge you to explore ESCNJ's Directory of Services, with plenty of new information. Please contact the individuals associated with the programs or services that fit your business model. You will find many people eager to help you.

Consider this directory as your key toward building new professional relationships in 2023-24. We look forward to celebrating your success and our continued expansion of quality education programs.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dale G. Caldwell".

Dr. Dale G. Caldwell  
Board President

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nadia Romano".

Nadia Romano  
Superintendent of Schools



# The ESCNJ At-A-Glance

## ESCNJ Highlights

- The Educational Services Commission of New Jersey is the state's largest Educational Services Commission, providing shared services in all 21 counties including school districts, municipalities, state agencies, colleges, universities, housing authorities, libraries, fire districts and additional public entities.
- The ESCNJ includes seven schools for students ages 3-21 with autism, multiple disabilities, and at-risk behaviors, including one school with on-site clinical support.
- The Bright Beginnings Learning Center, Future Foundations Academy, Piscataway Regional Day School, Adult Community Services, and ESCNJ's Central Office are all located on the Piscataway Campus at 1660 Stelton Road. The Academy Learning Center is at 145 Pergola Ave. in Monroe Township; the Center for Lifelong Learning is at 333 Cheesequake Road in Parlin, and the NuView Academy is at 1 Park Ave. in Piscataway.



## ESCNJ Highlights

- Supports school districts statewide through its Collaborative Educational Services (CES), to meet the needs of students with disabilities within their local school district as an alternative to costly private special education schools.
- Manages the state's largest Co-op Pricing System with more than 1,475 members, saving millions of taxpayer dollars in purchases. Services include: electricity; natural gas; internet access; telecommunications; assorted technology products; grounds and maintenance equipment; furniture; security cameras and card access systems; carpet, flooring, custodial supplies and more.
- Operates a Coordinated Transportation System, providing safe and efficient transportation services statewide for more than 10,000 students.
- Presents opportunities for higher functioning classified students to acquire the skills required for employment and independent living.
- Offers Tax-Exempt Lease Purchase Financing programs to qualified Co-op Pricing System members.
- Provides specialized, auxiliary, and remedial Chapter 192 and 193 services to eligible students through its Department of Non-public School Services.
- Operates a Professional Conference Center with modern technology to accommodate professional and social gathers.
- Provides impartial assessments and recommendations to schools and state agencies through a Technology Consulting Service.
- Reinforces independent living skills through Pathways to Adult Living (PAL), a program for 18-21-year-old classified students who have completed their high school requirements.
- Provides services to individuals 21 and older through the Adult Community Services (ACS) program, giving them hands-on experience that can transfer to real-world opportunities.
- Collaborates with school districts through the Itinerant Services For Deaf & Hard of Hearing program.
- Administers a Special Education Department Review Service for public school districts and charter schools to ensure compliance with all state and federal laws and regulations.
- Operates the Turning Point Academy (TPA) which includes facilitating academic and behavior management services for youth secured within the Middlesex County Juvenile Detention Center.
- Runs the newly-expanded ESCNJ Aquatics & Fitness Center, which is open to the public, located behind the Center for Lifelong Learning in Parlin.





# Shared Services Doing More with Less

Due to increased enrollments, fluctuations in state aid, state-mandated services and other economic challenges, the pressure on school districts to offer increasingly comprehensive special and general education services, has been particularly acute. Municipalities have also experienced less than anticipated tax revenues and state assistance. Consequently, more school districts and municipalities have turned to the ESCNJ to maintain quality services for students and taxpayers. As a result, the ESCNJ has evolved from providing shared services to several Middlesex County school districts in 1977 to the largest Educational Services Commission in the state. The ESCNJ's support of school districts, colleges, universities, and municipalities in all 21 New Jersey counties, saves millions of dollars for taxpayers each year.

## BENEFITING SCHOOLS AND TAXPAYERS

The ESCNJ has embraced an entrepreneurial approach in meeting its shared services responsibilities — quickly filling voids which may exist in some districts — so they can provide quality programs and services. The ESCNJ is also a member of the Association of Educational Purchasing Agencies (AEPA), a national association of Educational Purchasing.

Entities with funding dependent on New Jersey state taxes seek shared services relationships with the ESCNJ to significantly limit their expenses without sacrificing the quality of their programs and services. By the same token, organizations that have not explored the advantages of shared services at ESCNJ are missing an opportunity to best serve New Jersey students, government agencies and taxpayers.

## SHARED SERVICES OVER THE YEARS

Participation in shared services has been encouraged through New Jersey statutes governing public education. In 1950, "county audiovisual aid centers" were established as a shared service for various districts. Throughout the 1960s and early 1970s, provisions authorizing educational services and jointure commissions, and participation in "interlocal and regional service agreements," were created to encourage schools and municipalities to combine resources and share services, as opposed to independently recreating options that already existed.



Some districts have established shared services agreements, particularly in the area of student transportation. But the practice has not come close to reaching its potential. The study, *Shared Services In School Districts: Policies, Practices and Recommendations*, published by the Rutgers-Newark Institute on Education Law and Policy, and funded by the New Jersey School Boards Association found the main factors for underutilization of shared services are:

- The perception that "home rule," the right to govern one's own district independently, would be compromised through shared services.
- Extreme sensitivity to the political ramifications of spending tax dollars for services outside of the local community.



# Shared Services Doing More with Less



Meanwhile a belief of some school districts and parents that costly private special education schools translate into superior special education has led to some spectacularly expensive public/private special education collaborations. One need only to compare tuitions rates, the highest special education expense, to discover the vast amount of funds saved by sending special education students to public schools, like ESCNJ.

The figures are even more pronounced when one figures comparing transportation costs of busing students 45-60 minutes from their home district to a private school, and participation in ESCNJ's Co-op Pricing System.



## SPECIAL EDUCATION TUITION SAVINGS

Based on figures from the NJDOE's Division of Administration and Finance, considerable savings to districts using ESCNJ's special education services to support students with autism, multiple and behavioral disabilities, intensive/behavioral and preschool disabilities.

### How savings are achieved:

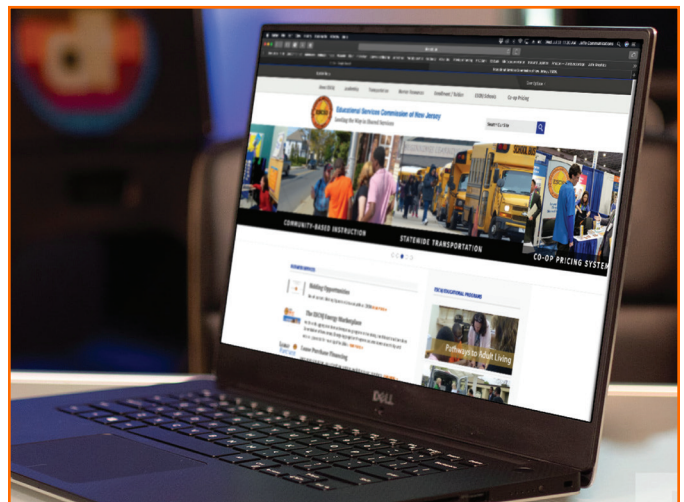
- Districts do not staff costly Special Education programs
- District school facilities are not used, freeing up existing space for classrooms, offices, and other uses

## COOPERATIVE BIDDING

Because volume drives down prices, public agencies benefit from working together to save taxpayer dollars through cooperative purchasing. The ESCNJ Co-op Pricing System was established in the early 1990s to facilitate cooperative purchasing. It helps schools and other public agencies (municipalities, housing authorities, etc.), save taxpayer dollars on equipment and services ranging from: grounds and maintenance equipment; security cameras; school buses; card access systems; carpeting and flooring; office supplies, and commodities like electricity and natural gas.

More than 1,475 school districts and public agencies, representing all 21 counties in New Jersey, as well as Connecticut, Maryland, New York, Pennsylvania and Virginia all benefit from the Co-op. All have saved millions of dollars in equipment, services and commodities as members of the ESCNJ's Co-op Pricing System.

Co-op Pricing members also save time and money using the ESCNJ bid awards (ensuring compliance with state laws). A state-approved program, the Co-op Pricing System is the largest of its kind in New Jersey, and there is no fee to join.





# Shared Services Doing More with Less

## COORDINATED TRANSPORTATION MANAGEMENT SERVICES

The ESCNJ transports more than 10,000 students statewide; operates nearly 2,000 bus routes for about 292 schools (special, public, charter, non-public and vocational-technical), in 18 counties and 73 districts, saving millions of dollars in transportation costs each year.



### How savings are achieved

The ESCNJ works with approximately 167 transportation companies to secure the most competitive rates. Districts with ESCNJ shared services transportation contracts are relieved of management responsibilities, state reporting, field trips and athletic team transportation, among other expenses.

## BENEFITS FROM OTHER PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

### NJDOE Collaboration

As part of the management of the NJDOE's New Jersey Digital Readiness for Learning and Assessment Project, ESCNJ worked cooperatively to help more than 1,000 schools save approximately \$275 million in increased high-speed bandwidth charges since 2015. That's enough money to keep 600 teachers in New Jersey classrooms each year.

## Department of Non-public School Services (Chapter 192/193, Non-public Nursing, Title 1, IDEA-B, Non-public ARRA)

The ESCNJ meets district responsibilities to offer specific, auxiliary and remedial services to eligible students attending non-public schools. Savings are achieved because districts do not require staff to manage programs. Additional savings are realized from the ESCNJ's management of districts' non-public Textbook program.

### Itinerant Services

Better educational services support district personnel efforts to create positive learning communities that help students realize their highest potential. Savings are achieved because the ESCNJ rates are 20 to 30 percent lower than private contractors.

## ADDITIONAL SHARED SERVICES OPPORTUNITIES

- Public Home Instruction
- CBI (Community-based Instruction)
- Technology Consulting Services
- Charter School Services
- Speech, Child Study, Occupational and Physical Therapy Services
- Hospitalization and Interim Instructional Programs
- Partnerships for Children with Hearing Loss
- Special Projects



# Tuition-Based Special Education Services



## CONTACT:

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Most people would agree that the primary goal when working with special needs students is helping facilitate their ability to realize their fullest potential so they (a) live responsible, productive lives (b) achieve some measure of appropriate independence, and (c) can contribute to the communities in which they live. The Educational Services Commission of New Jersey meets this goal through the delivery of engaging, relevant, research-based special education programs, aligned with the New Jersey Department of Educational Student Learning Standards.



Implementing special education programs is always challenging. It requires a great deal of expertise and instructional support to identify the best approach for students in conjunction with their Individualized Education Program (IEP). The integration of shared services for public, non-public and charter schools helps leverage instructional, therapeutic, and programmatic expertise, resulting in measurable, quality outcomes for students.



The ESCNJ tailors its shared services to meet the educational requirements and budgetary constraints of districts. Our special education programs are fully compliant with federal government and state special education code requirements. They are designed to accommodate full-time, shared-time, collaborative, partnership, Local Educational Agency (LEA) and self-contained students. Moreover, the ESCNJ is always receptive to piloting new models to meet student and constituent needs.





## Tuition-Based Special Education Services

Autism, Cognitive Impairment, Multiple, Behavioral and/or Learning Disabilities

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The primary tuition-based special education programs operated by the ESCNJ are Programs for Students with Autism, Programs for Students with Multiple Disabilities, and Programs for Students with Behavioral, Learning and/or Language Disabilities and Cognitive Impairment. Enrollment is open to students ages 3-21, and includes extended year summer school. Our certified educators, staff and classroom aides are experienced practitioners, many with more than 20 years of experience in the field. The overriding philosophy in working with our students is to help them develop the necessary life skills to reach their fullest potential so they may lead productive, independent lives.

According to The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the National Public Health Institute of the United States, the definitive cause of autism remains unknown. As a result, the Program for Students with Autism is continually evolving because of its complexity and new discoveries.

The range in degree of how autism impacts people prompted clinicians to develop the "autism spectrum" because some people are mildly impaired, while others are severely disabled.



# Tuition-Based Special Education Services

## Autism, Cognitive Impairment, Multiple, Behavioral and/or Learning Disabilities



The Program for Students with Autism is based on the principles of Applied Behavior Analysis and/or Verbal Behavior. The intensive and individualized program is provided for students in a 2:1 student to faculty/staff ratio. The program integrates the resources of the school, family, and community to maximize student independence and potential for lifelong learning. School staff also assist resident districts in providing a smooth transition for students to inclusive education and post-graduation vocational placements. The instructional program for autism adheres to New Jersey Student Learning Standards.

### **Instructional program components:**

- Small and Large Group Instruction
- Academic programs, including literacy, language arts, communication, music and art
- Functional Academic Skills
- Adaptive Physical Education
- Consumer Skills
- Social Skills
- Community-Based Instruction

### **Related services include:**

- Speech/Language Therapy
- Occupational Therapy
- Physical Therapy
- Adaptive Physical Education
- Augmentative/Assistive Communication

In addition, ESCNJ offers opportunities to participate in Parent/Sibling Workshops to better understand how to relate to people with autism.

The ESCNJ's program for Students With Multiple Disabilities includes students categorized under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), whose combination of disabilities may include: speech, physical mobility, learning, cognitive impairments, visual and

hearing impairment, brain injury, and behavior management issues. Studies suggest that for about 75 percent of children with severe intellectual impairment, there is a biological cause which is a prenatal bio-medical factor. In other cases, gene or chromosome abnormalities are cited as the genetic factor. Like students with autism, the academic abilities of students with multiple disabilities can vary widely.

The Program for Students with Multiple Disabilities is based on the principles of Applied Behavior Analysis, with intensive and individualized programs for students in a 3:1 student to faculty/staff ratio. The focus is on the development of independent functional skills in language, academic, social and vocational areas. Student disabilities range from moderate to severe and include the areas of Cognitive, Neurological, Medical and Orthopedic disabilities.



The programs for students with behavioral, learning and language disabilities and cognitive impairment, are offered in a "school within a school" design, divided into Elementary, Middle and Upper Communities. The programs provide an environment that enables students to achieve individualized academic excellence, manage their behavior and enhance their self-esteem.



## Tuition-Based Special Education Services

Autism, Cognitive Impairment, Multiple, Behavioral and/or Learning Disabilities

### INSTRUCTIONAL ELEMENTARY COMMUNITY PROGRAM COMPONENTS (GRADES K-4)

English/Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, Physical Education, Health, and Technology skills.



### INSTRUCTIONAL MIDDLE COMMUNITY PROGRAM COMPONENTS (GRADES 5-8)

English/Language Arts, General Mathematics, Pre-Algebra, Science, Social Studies and History, Technology, Physical Education, Health, and Visual and Performing Arts.

### INSTRUCTIONAL UPPER COMMUNITY PROGRAM COMPONENTS (GRADES 8-12)

English, Algebra, Mathematics, Basic Geometry, U.S. and World History, Government, Civics, Economics, Technology, Earth/Physical and Life Science, Physical/Health Education, and Career Education.

#### Related Services:

Academic skill building is addressed through a concentration on small group instruction and related services based on each student's IEP. The curriculum is more functional than traditional by relating course work to the life skills necessary for daily living.

As students make progress through the program, Post-Secondary Transition Planning such as Job Sampling and Work Study opportunities are provided in alignment with an assessment of student preferences and abilities.

#### Specialized program components include:

- Functional academic skills
- Applied Behavior Analysis principles
- Adapted Physical Education
- Visual and Performing Arts instruction
- Dysphasia intervention
- Seizure management
- Adaptive Equipment Assessment
- Community-Based Instruction
- Interactive & Assistive technology for student use
- Counseling
- Occupational Physical and Speech therapy

Student exposure to technology is based on the hybrid learning methodology, a blend of digital learning and face-to-face instruction for a more personalized and relevant academic experience. Each student receives a Google Chromebook and other digital resources to use during the day under a teacher's supervision.

The middle/high school community students also receive 21st Century Life, Career Planning and World Language (Spanish) courses, in addition to Community-Based Instruction (CBI). The CBI program includes job sampling opportunities with community employers, resume writing and interviewing techniques. The life skills necessary for independent living, such as using public transportation, grocery shopping, banking and crossing streets safely, are also part of the CBI curriculum.

# Tuition-Based Special Education Services On-Site Clinical Support



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Our on-site clinical support service, a collaboration between the ESCNJ and Rutgers Behavioral Health Care (RBHC), is a New Jersey Department of Education approved service.

The partnership has resulted in an exemplary educational and on-site clinical support program for students ages 5-21 who function at or near grade level, yet require more clinical intervention and supervision than offered in traditional educational settings due to severe behavioral challenges.

The NuView Academy (NVA), established in 2000, is committed to addressing student's emotional and behavioral challenges, academic needs, strengthening their sense of individual responsibility, and when appropriate, returning students to their home district. The educational program is administered by NuView staff; RUBHC clinicians administer the psychiatric and therapeutic components to further support student instruction.

### **The Academic Program/Curriculum includes:**

- English/Language Arts
- Technology/Hybrid Learning
- Social Studies
- Visual Arts
- Mathematics/Science
- 21st Century Life & Careers
- Health & Physical Education



## **CLINICAL SUPPORT SERVICES**

The psychiatric and therapeutic components include a functional student behavioral assessment. The assessment is conducted by a psychiatrist, psychologists, professional clinical counselor and licensed social worker who design an effective treatment and support plan.

### **Additional Program Goals and objectives include:**

- Individual/small group counseling and family therapy
- A positive behavior management system
- Ongoing communication with local child study team, interdisciplinary treatment and team meetings
- Increased understanding of prescribed medications



# Children's Specialized Hospital In-Patient Educational Program Extended School Year Program

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## CHILDREN'S SPECIALIZED HOSPITAL IN-PATIENT EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

The ESCNJ serves as the educational services provider for students who are patients at Children's Specialized Hospital in New Brunswick. ESCNJ administrators and faculty work collaboratively with their respective Children's Specialized Hospital personnel to ensure the provision of an effective, high-quality educational program.

The major goal of the ESCNJ Patient Educational Instruction Program is to address the individualized educational needs of patients at Children's Specialized Hospital to enable them to keep pace, to the greatest extent possible, with instruction being provided at their resident district school. Carefully planned accommodations and programming are implemented in those instances where students have demonstrated a level of regression in their academic performance because of the severity of their medical conditions.

The ESCNJ provides an on-site Coordinator/Lead Teacher to provide daily supervision of activities, while additional ESCNJ staff oversee the implementation of program components including:

- Contact with parents/guardians and resident school districts
- Ongoing communication with Children's Specialized Hospital staff
- Participation in educational planning meetings
- Preparation of detailed progress reports

## EXTENDED SCHOOL YEAR FULL DAY SUMMER PROGRAM

The ESCNJ offers a comprehensive summer program with a range of educational, enrichment and recreational activities. The summer program is IEP-based to reinforce information previously learned, avoid regression, and ensure students are academically and behaviorally prepared for the new school year.





# Department of Non-public and Charter School Services



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The Department of Non-public and Charter School Services provides support in accordance with Public Law 192-193, passed by the New Jersey State Legislature in 1977 requiring public school districts to provide specific auxiliary and remedial services to eligible students. The department assumed responsibility to provide services to Charter Schools as they grew into prominence in the mid-1990s. In addition, The Department of Non-public Schools and Charter School Services, which serves approximately 4,000 students throughout New Jersey, manages programs that are periodically made available through the federal government's Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

Employees and consultants are fully certified and professionally prepared in their fields of study. Staff members regularly participate in professional development training to strengthen their skills and share best practices with colleagues to ensure quality education for students.



## To be eligible for services, students must meet the following requirements:

- Enrolled full-time in a non-public elementary, secondary or charter school, grades K-12, in New Jersey
- Be between the ages of 5 and 20 for Chapter 192 services, or 5 and 21 for Chapter 193 services
- Meet the criteria for eligibility for the specific service(s) as determined by law, code and/or regulations
- Parents/guardians have given written consent, required yearly



# Department of Non-public and Charter School Services

## CHAPTER 192 SERVICES

- Compensatory Education
- ESL/ELL Services
- Home Instruction

## CHAPTER 193 SERVICES

- Child Study Team Assessment
- Speech-Language
- Supplementary Instruction

## CHARTER SCHOOL SERVICES

The ESCNJ provides support for charter schools in accordance with the applicable New Jersey Statute, State Board of Education regulations and the policies of the Board of Directors of the Educational Services Commission of New Jersey.

### Available Services Include:

- Speech, Occupational & Physical Therapy
- Comprehensive Child Study Team Services
- Applied Behavior Analysis Consultations
- Community-Based Instructional Services
- Accredited Professional Development Academy
- Title I Services

## IDEA PART B SERVICES:

For students ages 3-21 requiring special education, services include:

- Purchase of educational materials and professional development appropriate to student needs
- Counseling, occupational therapy and/or physical therapy appropriate to student needs
- In class support programs based on the students' Individualized Services Plan
- Instructional aides for classified students identified as requiring such services

**Please note:** The services are not all inclusive; additional services that fall within the IDEA-Part B guidelines can be developed.

## NON-PUBLIC SCHOOL NURSING CHAPTER 226:

Nursing services are provided to eligible Non-public schools via a contract with their local district and using Non-public Nursing State Aid. The ESCNJ employs Registered Nurses to provide services to Non-public schools, including:

- Screening of hearing, maintenance of student health records, and notification to local and county health officials of any student not properly immunized.
- Scoliosis examinations of students between the ages of 10 and 18.
- The extension of emergency care (nursing office hours), based on funding.

## TEXTBOOK PROGRAM

Textbook services for use by full-time, non-public school students in grades K-12 include: collating textbook order forms; initiating the price verification process; establishing designated purchase order numbers for each school; issuing purchase orders; monitoring non-public accounts; processing payments and paying for completed orders.

## TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM

The program was created to meet the technology needs of non-public schools with equipment and software. ESCNJ supports the program with the collating of order forms, preparing/ issuing purchase orders; processing payments for all completed orders and arranging for delivery of orders to schools. Disposition of all equipment purchases must be done in accordance with the provisions of the Public-School Contracts Law.

## SECURITY AID PROGRAM

The Non-public School Security Program establishes aid for the provision of security services, equipment, or technology to ensure a safe and secure environment for students attending Non-public schools. Our services support all that is involved in the expenditure of these funds for purchases or providing security personnel for Non-public schools.

## THERAPEUTIC SERVICES

The Therapeutic Services program provides examination and classification services that identify a student's educational handicap and prescribe an IEP. A student is eligible for these services when he or she exhibits a persistent or significant physical, emotional, communication, cognitive or social problem that may be the manifestation of an educational handicap.

An interdisciplinary team that includes a learning disabilities teacher-consultant, school psychologist, school social worker, and a medical doctor conduct individual diagnostic evaluations. The interdisciplinary process includes, but is not limited to, student observation, information from the student's parent/guardian and classroom teachers, and individual team testing. In some cases, the child study team may recommend an IEP for the student. This service also includes annual reviews and periodic evaluations of students previously classified and receiving either speech correction and/or supplementary instruction.

## SPEECH-LANGUAGE

Under Chapter 193, the Department of Non-public School Services provides speech/language services to students identified as having a language, articulation, voice or fluency disorder. The student may be identified and referred by the parent/guardian or by a classroom teacher.

Based on a Services Plan outlining annual goals and objectives, a speech-language specialist implements the educational program. Individualized instruction is provided to groups no larger than five students.

## COUNTY DIAGNOSTIC EDUCATIONAL CONSULTANTS

The County Diagnostic Educational Consultants (CDEC) is a single source for a range of diagnostic services that are particularly helpful in districts with limited personnel and resources. The CDEC is flexible regarding the scheduling of services, and can accommodate emergency or short-notice requests. All CDEC consultants are New Jersey Department of Education approved, state-certified employees.



### CDEC services are available on site and include:

- Augmentative Communication Evaluation
- Bilingual Services
- Child Study Team Services
- Learning Disability Teacher Consultant Services
- Occupational Therapy Evaluations
- Psychiatric Services
- Psychological Services
- Physical Therapy Evaluations
- School Social Worker Consultant Services
- Speech-Language Services



# Community-Based Instruction

Preparing students for independent living to the fullest extent possible is accomplished through Community-Based Instruction (CBI). For more than two decades, the ESCNJ has operated a robust CBI program based on the belief that despite certain cognitive disabilities or impairments, Special Needs Students can and should be integrated into the work life of the community.

CBI is a research-based instructional methodology, which includes sustained and repeated instruction that takes place in the workplace and is reinforced in the classroom. For some students, participation in CBI begins as early as middle school, and is considered integral to instilling students with the life skills necessary to make the post-21 transition as comfortable and productive as possible. The CBI program meets several New Jersey Department of Education Student Learning Standards for career readiness, life literacies and key skills including "career awareness," and "personal financial literacy."



In addition to the participation of full-time ESCNJ students, shared time arrangements are available to students attending their home school district. Technical assistance for establishing a CBI program is also available to school districts.



Community-Based Instruction includes teaching employment-related skills such as resume writing and interviewing techniques. Job sampling participation provides CBI students with an opportunity to identify job preferences, helps staff assess student strengths in different environments, provides a vehicle for employers to integrate special needs people into their workforce, and serves as a window through which the community can observe Special Needs Students engaged in productive activities. Student participation ranges from packing groceries in supermarkets and placing items on department store shelves, to sorting clothes in laundromats.

# Community-Based Instruction



Another component of CBI is helping students gain the life skills necessary for independent living to the greatest extent possible. Activities include: using public transportation; making bank deposits; purchasing items in a department store; anxiety management strategies; joining conversations appropriately; coping with crowds; safely crossing the street; wheelchair accessibility issues and interacting with others in public settings. Students also learn small and large group socialization skills and behavior management techniques by eating in restaurants, going bowling and visiting movie theaters.

Furthermore, given the statistical evidence of people with disabilities being exploited at alarmingly higher rates than the rest of the population, students learn safety skills. Lessons include how to respond when offered a ride by a stranger, recognizing potentially abusive encounters and methods for protecting themselves by learning how, when and who to ask for help. Students also learn practical skills like finding restrooms in stores, or how to respond to a fire alarm.

A critical component for a successful CBI program is establishing relationships with area employers. CBI staff members address any concerns employers may have about program participation, and emphasize the community service benefit they are providing. Participants in the CBI program include, but not limited to: Robert Wood Johnson Hospital; Rutgers University; ShopRite; Sam's Club; Target; Marshall's; Lowes; Burger King; TJ Maxx; Parker House Assisted Living; Elijah's Promise; PetSmart; the Franklin Township Food Bank; Popcorn for the People; travel service plazas and the U.S. Postal Service.





# Home/Out-of-School Instruction and Hearing Loss

## CONTACT:

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*Assistant Superintendent for Learning/Educational Services*

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## HOME/OUT-OF-SCHOOL INSTRUCTION

A student can receive individual Home Instruction in lieu of in-school classroom instruction if he or she has a medical determination stating that illness or injury prevents the student from attending school for at least 10 school days. ESCNJ faculty members are New Jersey Department of Education approved, state-certified employees with Home Instruction experience. ESCNJ-trained consultants are also available to work with students whose primary language is not English. The ESCNJ may provide services in districts where limited personnel resources are available, as well as in areas where low incident needs make it impractical for districts to hire specialized personnel.

The Home Instruction program meets the requirements of the District Board of Education for promotion and graduation, and minimum time requirements determined by the State Board of Education. Instruction begins within five school days after eligibility has been determined, and is provided for a minimum of five hours per week in no fewer than three visits on at least three separate days.

### Program Criteria

Instruction is provided by a board approved certified teacher. Instruction is also provided to students unable to attend in-school classes because of administrative action.

## Servicing Students with Disabilities

A classified student may have his or her IEP implemented through one-to-one instruction at home or in another setting where no other program option is appropriate. Instruction is provided for no less than 10 hours per week for students confined to a hospital, convalescent home or other medical facility.



### Please Note:

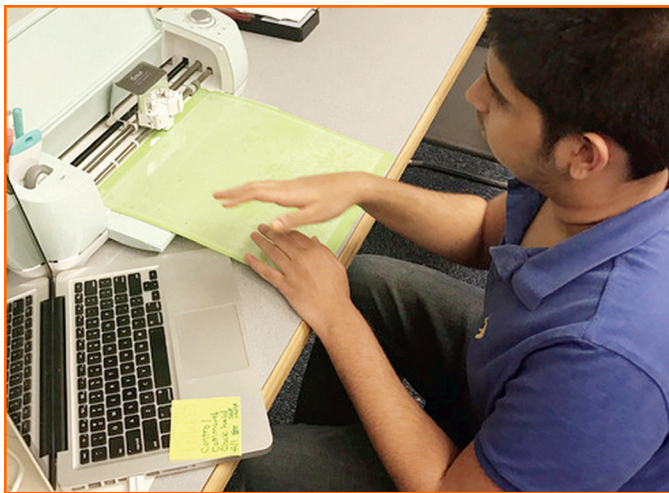
Instruction may be provided for up to 60 calendar days in a school year. This period may be extended via referral according to NJAC 6A:14 for determination by the child study team of eligibility for special education and/or related services.

## ITINERANT SERVICES FOR STUDENTS WITH HEARING LOSS

The focus of this program is to collaborate with resident school districts, families and state agencies to create positive learning communities that enable children who are deaf or hard of hearing to realize their highest potential. Various supports are provided through the utilization of certified Teachers of the Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing whose expertise is in helping meet the unique communication needs of students with hearing loss.

## TRANSITION PLANNING

The Collaborative Educational Services (CES) offers a “transition planning” roadmap for students, family and school staff to support the transition of students from out of district, back to their home school district, and to help students move into independent living to the greatest extent possible.



### Services include:

- Monitor and recommend short- and long-term goal modifications
- Help determine expansion or contraction of student placement decisions
- Provide faculty and staff with professional development in such areas as adapting lessons, behavioral planning and peer support
- Develop transportation management skills so students can safely access public transportation
- Review data pertaining to behavioral and therapeutic support, social integration, and disbursement of medication
- A free Transition Fair with more than 15 agencies to provide relevant information to parents
- A free Transitions Workshop open to faculty, staff and parents

## PATHWAYS TO ADULT LIVING

The Pathways to Adult Living (PAL) program is for students 18-21 years old who have completed their high school academic requirements, yet would benefit from additional Community-Based Instruction. Supervised by certified Structured Learning Experience (SLE) faculty, students meet at a storefront in Sayreville. Time for technology-infused, functional academic work, and reinforcing daily living skills like cleaning, painting, making beds, and safe use of microwave ovens, washing machines, vacuum cleaners, etc. is also included. Students also participate in job sampling and internships with approximately 75 employers including Rutgers, Robert Wood University Johnson Hospital, ShopRite, Elijah's Promise and Lowe's. Training in the use of public transportation is included, and parents can access ESCNJ support when interacting with adult service providers.

## ADULT COMMUNITY SERVICES

Adult Community Services (ACS) is a program that offers individuals 21 and over an opportunity to strive for independence by helping to develop their social, emotional and life skills.

To explore individuals' interests, the program offers opportunities to participate in community inclusion and pre-vocational learning experiences. Hands-on experience that can be transferred to real-world opportunities is a cornerstone of the program to bridge the gap between school and adulthood.

### Program components include:

- Development of skills for social, physical, emotional and habilitative growth
- Volunteer and/or job sampling opportunities
- A media center, gymnasium/cafeteria, outdoor recreation areas and a kitchen/café



# Professional Conference Center at ESCNJ

## CONTACT:

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*Conference Center Coordinator*

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@ **edakin@escnj.us**

The Professional Conference Center at ESCNJ is located in the heart of Middlesex County on the ESCNJ's Piscataway Campus.

The 4,486 sq. ft. state-of-the-art meeting space, with a 500 sq. ft. lobby, can be separated by an airwall into two medium-sized breakout rooms, with ample on-site parking.



## Room Specs:

- 29'W x 59'L with the divider
- 78'W x 59' L without divider
- Two large LED screens
- Two modern interactive podiums with built-in sound systems
- Wireless microphones
- Free high-speed wireless internet
- State-of-the-art built-in sound system
- Teleconference camera and video controls
- Moveable tables (round and academic style)
- Ergonomic conference chairs
- Various room set-up options
- Maximum capacity 342

## General Information:

- On-site event coordinator
- Conveniently located to Route 287, Garden State Parkway, Turnpike, 1.4 miles to NJ Transit's Edison Station, 30 miles southeast of New York City
- The partnered hotel is HOME2 Suites by Hilton
- Recommended caterers upon request
- Bookings require a certificate of insurance with a minimum of \$1 million liability
- A draft agenda is required at the time of booking
- Standard set-up fees are charged for each event
- No alcohol is permitted on the premises



The Professional Conference Center hosts an array of ESCNJ events throughout the year.

The facility is available for meetings, retreats and special events for both the community and corporate use.

For more information visit:  
**[WWW.ESCNJEVENTS.COM](http://WWW.ESCNJEVENTS.COM)**



# ESCNJ Aquatics and Fitness Center



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The ESCNJ Aquatics and Fitness Center is located at 333 Cheesequake Road, in Sayreville, NJ (located behind the Center for Lifelong Learning).

The newly-designed, newly-expanded, 19,000 sq. ft. center features the latest in strength and cardio equipment for public use.

The centerpiece of the gym floor is a massive base station with multiple training modules.

### Membership includes:

- State-of-the-Art cardio equipment (treadmills, ellipticals, stationary bikes)
- Large selection of free weights
- TRX
- Yoga
- Spin classes
- Les Mills Pro classes
- Four fitness studios
- Access to the Olympic-sized pool and activity pool
- Personal training

The Aquatics and Fitness Center is a two-level fitness facility and has two new locker rooms.

The facility has everything needed to meet or exceed your health and fitness goals.

For more information visit:

**WWW.THEAQUATICSCENTER.COM**





# Transportation Services

## CONTACT:

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*Transportation Coordinator*

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The ESCNJ's Transportation Services honor the law that special education students have the right to appropriate transportation to and from school. The law is based on the Education for all Handicapped Children Act of 1975, and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act of 1990 (IDEA), in accordance with New Jersey Administrative Code.

Working with more than 73 districts in 18 counties, the ESCNJ is respected for its consistent record of safe, reliable and punctual transportation for special, general, public, non-public and vocational students. The ESCNJ transports more than 10,000 students statewide, operating nearly 2,000 routes for approximately 292 schools (special, public, charter, non-public and vocational-technical).



Transportation service accommodations are based on the student's IEP, team member's recommendations and in partnership with

parental input. This collaboration results in providing student accommodations deemed necessary, including climate-controlled buses, wheelchair lifts and ramps and transportation aides.

The shared services offered to districts vary based on each school's specific transportation needs. The ESCNJ manages the entire operation. For others, the ESCNJ is responsible for a portion of their transportation routes.



The ESCNJ holds an annual transportation meeting to review changes to school transportation laws and procedures and share best practices for transporting Special Needs Students. The ESCNJ also periodically hosts meetings with transportation contractors from across the state to make certain everyone is aware of the most current student transportation regulations. Meetings cover a range of transportation issues including: delayed opening procedures; bus idling rules; harassment and anti-bullying training; laws regarding cell phone use; wheelchair securement and effective communication.

# Co-op Pricing System/Lease Purchase Financing



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The goal of the ESCNJ Co-op Pricing System is to save taxpayers money by identifying the lowest prices on a range of equipment and services for its members. Awards range from office furniture, gymnasium flooring, vehicles, security equipment, office and custodial supplies, supply of natural gas, electricity and much more.

Members save time and money by using the ESCNJ bid awards that are in compliance with state law, and advertise products and services to attract as many responsible bidders as possible. The volume of bidders results in lower pricing for members than if they were to try and make the same purchases independently.



With more than 1,475 members representing all 21 counties in New Jersey, as well as Connecticut, Maryland, New York, Pennsylvania, and Virginia. The Co-op Pricing System has grown to become the largest state approved cooperative pricing system in the state. Members include school districts, colleges, universities, municipalities, county government, housing authorities, libraries, etc. All ESCNJ Co-op

members' applications are reviewed by the New Jersey State Department of Community Affairs, and lifetime membership is awarded upon approval. ESCNJ also holds an annual Vendor Expo to provide members and vendors an avenue for testing equipment, comparing prices, networking, and the ability to earn free CEU class credits. There is no fee to join the Co-op.

For a complete listing of ESCNJ's current Co-op members, visit: [www.escnj.us/members](http://www.escnj.us/members)

The ESCNJ is also a member of the Association of Educational Purchasing Agencies (AEPA), a national purchasing association that includes 29 states, bringing immense buying power to the Co-op. Only one entity per state may be a member of the AEPA and the ESCNJ is that entity for New Jersey. The AEPA differs from similar national associations because bids are advertised locally by each individual state member, reviewed by an AEPA bid committee and recommended for award to all states. Each state reviews the bid award recommendations and decides if the bids and vendors are compliant with their respective state laws. If the awards/vendors are compliant and have been proven to provide savings to Co-op members, the ESCNJ passes a Board resolution to add these AEPA bids as an offering to its members.

## LEASE PURCHASING

The ESCNJ offers qualified Co-op Members Tax-Exempt Lease Purchase Financing Programs, a cost-saving alternative to vendor-offered financing rates. Lease purchasing provides the capital to maintain and replenish equipment with a minimal year-to-year tax impact.

With ESCNJ assistance in writing bid specifications, districts save significant costs on reduced interest and fees.



# The Educational Services Commission of New Jersey: A Legacy of Excellence

At its December 7, 1977 meeting, the New Jersey State Board of Education voted unanimously to approve the proposal to establish the Middlesex County Educational Services Commission (MCESC). As previously noted, the approval stipulated the voluntary nature of participation with the MCESC, a practice which continues to this day.



The creation of the MCESC and its Department of Non-public School Services was designed to help public schools meet the needs of residents attending non-public schools. However, a role for additional services was already envisioned. Expansion ideas included programs like “computer services,” sharing “special consultants” for educational and support programs, summer school programs, consolidation of printing, equipment and maintenance services, and sharing teacher services for “specialized courses.”

The vision of expanded services for MCESC proved accurate, to say the least. The MCESC began operating in February 1977, and within six years, opened the Central Valley School (1982) and Regional Day School at Piscataway (1984), two county-based special education schools for students with severe disabilities.

By December 1988, the Board of Directors had developed an ambitious *Plan For The Future*, which included:

- Securing centralized building space to meet the needs of non-public schools and central office personnel.
- Coordinating linkage with county-based programs providing varied education treatment counseling and support services for students with substance abuse problems.
- Securing a permanent facility for Central Valley School so the MCESC could continue meeting the county-wide needs of public-school districts as part of legal requirement to provide services for students who are severely emotionally disturbed.
- Establishing a special education school for neurologically impaired, emotionally disturbed, perceptually impaired and communication handicapped students in Middlesex County in response to the needs identified by school districts.

As the MCESC continued to evolve, it took on an increasingly entrepreneurial approach to doing business, creating new services and programs as requested by districts. For example, based on legislation requiring all districts, regardless of size, to provide nursing services to non-public schools (further complicated by a nursing shortage), MCESC created a program for districts enabling them to share full-time MCESC nurses. Previously, districts were obtaining services through their local boards of health. In December 1991, the request for MCESC to provide the nursing service was approved by the State Board of Education.

In 1993, survey results identified a growing number of school districts needing child study team evaluation services because of temporary absences of district staff who were ill, had family leave requests, or similar reasons requiring time off. As a result, the MCESC requested approval to serve on an “as needed” basis, providing psychological and learning disability testing,

# The Educational Services Commission of New Jersey: A Legacy of Excellence



with the understanding that its services would supplement existing Child Study Team Services and not result in any reduction in force to the local school district. In November 1993, the Middlesex County Superintendent of Schools approved the MCEC to provide these services.

Another milestone occurred in 1999 with the creation of the MCEC Professional Development Academy (PDA). The PDA offered a convenient site in central New Jersey on the MCEC Piscataway campus to host workshops so educators statewide could attend and meet their professional development requirements.



In 2000, given the steady growth, a request was made to the New Jersey Department of Education to review the MCEC Charter in order to allow for further expansion. Upon review, the State Board of Education unanimously supported the proposal. Then, in 2003, based on encouragement from the U.S. Department of Education and the New Jersey Department of Education urging schools to educate students with disabilities in the "least restrictive environment," the MCEC was given permission to establish the Bureau of Collaboration and Consultation Services, since renamed Collaborative Educational Services (CES). The goal of CES is to help districts reduce tuition and transportation costs by allowing students to remain in their home district and also relieve

students of long bus rides and experience "less trauma" as a result of remaining in their neighborhood schools. The CES was approved, and in addition to keeping students in their communities, clinical support and in-service staff development opportunities were also established. Additionally, costs were reduced by as much as 30 percent compared with private special education schools.

By 2005, the MCEC had shared services relationships with 75 school districts in 11 counties, and had established the Co-op Pricing System to help schools, municipalities and businesses make purchases at reduced prices. The Board of Directors at that time requested a name change to the Middlesex Regional Educational Services Commission to reflect its growth. The request was unanimously approved by the New Jersey State Board of Education on June 1, 2005 and went into effect immediately.

With further growth, the MRESC was soon meeting some of the needs of the 20 additional counties making it apparent that the name MRESC was an inaccurate depiction of the clientele. The MRESC Board of Directors at that time determined a name change to The Educational Services Commission of New Jersey would more accurately describe the statewide service provider role.

A name change request to the State Board of Education, along with several presentations, documentation, and testimony resulted in a unanimous 11 - 0 vote by the State Board to approve the request.

The ESCNJ hopes this *Directory of Services 2023-2024* results in continued expansion of quality education programs and cost-effective purchasing opportunities for schools, businesses and municipalities, in order to limit tax increases for these programs and increase services to New Jersey residents.



# Shared Services Resources

## RESOURCES

### New Jersey Resources

A publication of the **New Jersey Department of Human Services' Division of Disability Services** (DDS) that provides a comprehensive listing of resources, programs, and services for people with disabilities and their family members.

### Family Support Statewide Regional Family Support Planning Councils

A listing of the 10 regional **Family Support Councils** in New Jersey.

### A publication of the **Boggs Center on Developmental Disabilities**

### Getting the Community Life You Want: A Guide to Home and Community Based Services Advocacy

A publication of the **Boggs Center on Developmental Disabilities**.

### Autism Speaks Transition Toolkit

A comprehensive resource for families regarding preparation for transition.

### Planning the Transition from School to Adult Life

This booklet, published by Autism NJ, introduces families to transition services, helps determine the appropriate time to start the transition process, and provides resources and tips to navigate the adult service system.

### The Journey to Community Housing with Supports

This guide, published by Autism NJ, provides easy to understand information about community housing and supportive services.

### New Jersey Transit

**New Jersey Transit** provides several different travel options for individuals with disabilities, including Access Link and accessible rail, bus, and light rail options. New Jersey Transit also helps to provide community paratransit options within all counties of New Jersey. For more information, visit [www.njtransit.com](http://www.njtransit.com) and click on the accessibility tab on the toolbar. NJ Transit also offers a reduced fare program for individuals with disabilities. The application for the reduced fare program must be certified by a physician and renewed each year. If the individual applying for the reduced fare program requires a personal care attendant to assist them with transportation, you should check "yes" on item #7 on the application. This will allow a person to travel with an individual with a disability at no cost.

### NJ Non-Driver Photo Identification Cards and Non-Driver Handicapped ID Cards

Parents of children ages 14 and older may wish to take advantage of the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission's program of providing a valid identification card to non-drivers. For a nominal fee, a non-driver photo identification card can be obtained at any MVC location for individuals who are 14 or older and meet the six-point ID Verification requirement. A non-driver handicapped ID card can be obtained for individuals who are 14 and older, meet the ID Verification requirement, and provide medical certification, for a nominal fee of only \$6. They have free newsletter and provider more information, visit the MVC website:

[www.state.nj.us/mvc](http://www.state.nj.us/mvc)

The **ABLE National Resource Center** has been established to serve as a clearinghouse of information related to ABLE accounts. They have a free newsletter and will be providing information on the ABLE plans offered by different states so that consumers can pick the plan that will best meet their needs.

[www.ablenrc.org](http://www.ablenrc.org)

# Shared Services Resources



**Autism New Jersey:** A non-profit agency that provides information, advocacy, education, and consultation services to individuals with autism and their families.

[www.autismnj.org](http://www.autismnj.org)

**Association for Science in Autism Treatment:**

A free newsletter about evidence-based practices.

[www.asatonline.org](http://www.asatonline.org)

**Autism Speaks:** An organization dedicated to funding research into the causes, prevention, treatments and a cure for autism; increasing awareness of autism spectrum disorders; and advocating for the needs of individuals with autism and their families.

[www.autismspeaks.org](http://www.autismspeaks.org)

**Autism Society of America:** A leading source of information and referral regarding autism. Local chapters.

[www.autism-society.org](http://www.autism-society.org)

**Autism Research Institute:** Newsletter summarizes current research in autism. Information source for vitamins, DMG, special diets, etc. based on parent reports.

[www.autism.com](http://www.autism.com)

A new website with information about the healthcare system for children and adults with special needs.

[www.autismandhealth.org](http://www.autismandhealth.org)

**The Boggs Center on Developmental Disabilities, (Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, Department of Pediatrics):** An agency dedicated to providing leadership in the promotion of independence, productivity, and the full inclusion of people with developmental disabilities in all facets of community life. Resource for information, conferences, and publications.

[www.rwjms.rutgers.edu/boggscenter](http://www.rwjms.rutgers.edu/boggscenter)

**Division of Developmental Disabilities:** Helps developmentally disabled students claim their rights in the community.

[www.state.nj.us/humanservices/ddd](http://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/ddd)

**Disability Rights of New Jersey:** Advocates for and protects legal, civil and human rights for the disabled.

[www.drnj.org](http://www.drnj.org)

An extensive online resource for individuals with autism spectrum disorder, family members, caregivers, professionals, service providers, and the general community.

[www.childrens-specialized.org/](http://www.childrens-specialized.org/)

[KohlsAutismAwareness](http://www.kohlsautismawareness.org)

**New Jersey Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired:** Enables eligible individuals with vision problems to achieve employment.

[www.state.nj.us/humanservices/cbvi](http://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/cbvi)

**New Jersey Statewide Independent Living**

**Council:** Maximizes opportunities for people with disabilities through planning and advocacy.

[www.njsilc.org](http://www.njsilc.org)

**Statewide Parent Advocacy Network:** Offers training and information to parents.

[www.spannj.org](http://www.spannj.org)

In an effort to spread awareness about workshops, conferences, and other training opportunities, the Family Support Center of New Jersey has established **The Training Calendar**. The Training Calendar acts as a clearinghouse of information about workshops, presentations, trainings, and conferences in New Jersey.

[www.thetrainingcalendar.org](http://www.thetrainingcalendar.org)

The Educational Services Commission of New Jersey's

# DIRECTORY OF SERVICES:

# 2023-2024



## *Leading The Way In Shared Services*

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