

PROGRAMS AND SERVICES 2020-2021



EST. 1971

BERGEN COUNTY Special Services School District

540 FARVIEW AVENUE
PARAMUS, NEW JERSEY 07652
[HTTP://BCSS.BERGEN.ORG](http://bcss.bergen.org)

The mission of the Bergen County Special Services School District is to effectively address the unique social, emotional, physical, intellectual, and career needs of students by creating positive, stimulating, and encouraging learning environments in schools, homes, and communities.

Through dynamic collaborations with families and partnerships with community resources, the District will enable each learner to realize his or her highest potential and to become a self-directed and contributing member of society.

Bergen County Special Services is a unique county-wide public school district that was established through an act passed by the New Jersey Legislature in 1971.

Distinguished as the first Special Services school district in New Jersey, Bergen County is now one of eight such districts funded by county, state, and sending schools. The District offers a broad spectrum of special education programs and services for children and adults with disabilities.

Students are placed in the least restrictive environment according to developmental and chronological levels. Flexible and highly individualized learning environments are

designed to meet individual needs. BCSS offers local school districts a wide range of programs incorporating the most effective and up-to-date technology available to meet the needs of students with diverse learning disabilities. The district also offers an extensive array of services to facilitate the transition from school to adult life, including employment and/or postsecondary education. A team of qualified professionals conducts individual assessments to develop personalized, holistic plans ensuring each student's successful integration into full community living.

The school programs at Bergen County Special Services are organized into five separate divisions known as continuums. Each of these continuums include a broad range of special education classifications, and are designed for the needs of students in pre-Kindergarten through secondary school.

AUTISM CONTINUUM

The Autism Continuum is designed to meet the academic, social, behavioral, and vocational needs of students who are classified with Autism Spectrum Disorder, Asperger's Syndrome, Pervasive Developmental Disorder, and Pervasive Developmental Disorder-Not Otherwise Specified. Learners attending our programs range in age from three to twenty-one. We offer our students highly individualized instructional formats based upon the principles of applied behavior analysis (ABA). These empirically-based teaching methodologies, according to ongoing research efforts, are the most effective educational interventions for students with autism. Our school services include occupational, physical, and speech therapies; family training; home program coordination; and augmentative communication assessment. Programs include language, social, behavioral, and academic development. Students enrolled in these programs are usually authorized to substitute the state's DLM alternative assessment for state-required standardized tests. The secondary program utilizes the support services of a job coach and an industrial arts teacher to assist students with internships at local businesses and employment in local communities.

Bergen County Special Services holds membership in Autism New Jersey, Inc.

BEHAVIORAL CONTINUUM

Programs within this continuum are designed for students with emotional and/or learning disabilities who require educational, supportive, and/or ongoing counseling to develop positive social and emotional interactions and, ultimately, the ability to self-monitor their personal growth and development. Students

learn to assume responsibility for their actions by understanding consequences of behavior, predicting outcomes of behavior, and exercising control of behavior.

The Behavioral Skills Continuum is firmly rooted in the commitment to provide an environment where all students can experience success and ultimately transition to become productive, self-supporting citizens. Each site provides a full array of traditional and functional academic courses, as well as personal, social, career and employment experiences. These supportive settings are designed to facilitate student learning potential and, simultaneously, to equip students with the skills they need to effectively make decisions, solve problems, and assume responsibility. Curriculum in these programs is aligned to New Jersey Student Learning Standards; students participate in all state-mandated testing.

DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING CONTINUUM

The Deaf and Hard of Hearing Continuum offers programs in Midland Park and Hackensack, and is one of the largest and most comprehensive of its kind in New Jersey. Students, who range in age from three to twenty-one, are educated either through an Auditory-Oral approach or a Total Communication approach. The Auditory-Oral track focuses on the development of listening and oral speech skills, while the Total Communication track incorporates sign language and finger spelling in addition to speech, speech-reading, and auditory amplification. Both approaches emphasize the development of communication skills through intensive speech and language training in conjunction with the use of residual hearing.

Since the programs are located in public schools, students have

the opportunity to interact with age-appropriate peers who are not hearing impaired. A complete array of placements is available, from self-contained to full inclusion (mainstreamed). Collaborative teaching, participation in lunch and recreation periods, and a full spectrum of academic and extracurricular activities are among the inclusion options offered. All students are eligible to participate in general education, physical education, sports, music, art, and library classes. A variety of cultural enrichment activities, such as performances by the National Theatre of the Deaf, are offered throughout the year.

Curriculum in these programs is aligned to the New Jersey Student Learning Standards, with students participating in all state-mandated testing. Additional support, including audiological services, ongoing case management services, and sign language classes for families and staff, is provided.

LIFE SKILLS CONTINUUM

Programs within the Life Skills Continuum offer education and related services to students who exhibit cognitive and/or physical disabilities. Emphasis is placed upon intensive instruction in age-appropriate independent living skills, generalization of skills across multiple environments, and community-based functional instruction. Career education and development of social skills enable students to become contributing members of society. Job coaches assist students in obtaining and maintaining employment. Students and families are linked to adult service providers so they can continue to receive the supports needed to succeed in life. Students typically participate in DLM alternative assessment.

PRESCHOOL CONTINUUM

Several Bergen County Special Services school sites have preschool programs that serve children who have been identified with specific needs. For other preschool children who have been identified with special education needs, inclusion in a general preschool classroom is the best placement. These students can be placed in a typical early childhood education center, provided with special education supports, and be educated with their typically developing peers. The program offers a full-day integrated preschool class with the goal of transitioning students to an integrated kindergarten class. Preschool classes are offered at *Brownstone School*, *Washington Elementary School*, *Hearing Impaired Program (HIP) at Midland Park* and *HIP at Union Street School*, and the *Norman A. Bleshman Regional Day School*. Please contact the individual schools for further information regarding their respective programs.

SERVICES FOR NON-PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS

New Jersey's Chapter 192 and Chapter 193 programs are offered to eligible students enrolled full-time in nonpublic elementary and secondary schools in New Jersey. Chapter 192 programs provide auxiliary services such as compensatory education, English as a second language, and home instruction. Chapter 193 programs provide remedial services such as evaluation and determination of eligibility for special education and related services, supplementary instruction, speech-language services, and home instruction from certified teachers employed by BCSS.

The 192/193 Program is staffed by approximately 64 professionals who provide services to classified and general education students in non-public schools throughout Bergen County. Forty-two highly qualified teachers provide Comp Ed (basic skills) to students who fall below the minimum levels of proficiency on standardized tests, as well as Supplemental Instruction (SI) to classified students. Two ESL teachers instruct students for whom English is a second language, to ensure their success both academically and socially. Additionally, twenty certified speech/language specialists in the Program evaluate and provide treatment for children with speech and language needs.

Contact Information: Danielle Russo, 201-343-6000, ext. 6033/danrus@bergen.org.

PROJECT SEARCH

PROJECT SEARCH is a full-time program located at the Bergen County Administrative Offices at One Bergen County Plaza in Hackensack. In partnership with Bergen County Project SEARCH and the Bergen County Workforce Development Board, BCSS offers students with disabilities full immersion in a variety of work settings during their last year of school in order to increase students' employment opportunities.

The program provides full day services for up to 12 students. The site is staffed with one appropriately certified teacher and one job coach. The goal of the program is to prepare students to obtain and maintain employment, establish linkages to adult supports, and utilize public transportation including Access Link as needed

Contact information: Tara Bohan, 201-343-6000 ext. 4079/tarboh@bergen.org.

AUTISM CONTINUUM

WASHINGTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL educates students with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), Asperger's Syndrome (AS), Pervasive Developmental Disorder (PDD), and Pervasive Developmental Disorder-Not Otherwise Specified (PDD-NOS), who range in age from three to twelve. The school program utilizes comprehensive applied behavior analysis (ABA) strategies that focus on language, social, behavior, and academic development. Behavioral support and intervention are provided on a daily basis. Transitioning students to the least restrictive educational setting with appropriate supports as needed is a program priority.

Contact information: Sandra Melacharek, 201-343-6000 ext. 6461/sanmel@bergen.org.

Address: Rocco Montesano Campus, 355 East Ridgewood Avenue, Paramus, NJ 07652.

WASHINGTON @ EMERSON educates students who are classified with ASD, AS, PDD, and PDD-NOS in a traditional elementary school environment. Students range in age from seven to twelve. The program provides comprehensive ABA services, offering students a transition model toward the least restrictive educational settings. Emphasis is on higher-order language and social skills as well as self-regulation.

Contact information: Sandra Melicharek, 201-343-6000 ext. 5850/sanmel@bergen.org.

Address: c/o Patrick Villano Elementary School, 100 High Street, Emerson, NJ 07630.

WASHINGTON NEW BRIDGES MIDDLE SCHOOL/HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM educates students with ASD, AS, PDD, and PDD-NOS, ranging in age from eleven to twenty-one. The program provides highly individualized instructional formats within an applied behavior analysis framework, with application focused on community, work, and educational environments. The program utilizes the support services of full-time job coaches and an industrial arts teacher, who work within the integrated educational model on site. Staff support students in internships at local businesses, as well as employment experiences within local communities. Students have the opportunity to generalize skills obtained in the school setting into home and community settings. This generalization process is conducted systematically with family participation and professional behavior supports.

Contact Information: Sandra Melicharek, 201-343-6000 ext. 4591/sanmel@bergen.org.

Address: 296 East Ridgewood Avenue, Paramus, NJ 07652.

BEHAVIORAL CONTINUUM

BROWNSTONE SCHOOL educates preschool through eighth-grade students with behavioral and/or learning disabilities who require educational supports and intensive counseling to develop positive social and emotional interactions and gain the ability to self-monitor personal growth and development. Program highlights include intensive literacy instruction, the Responsive Classroom, and a structured behavior management program.

Contact Information: David Perez, 201-343-6000 ext. 8675/dperez@bergen.org.

Address: c/o St. Philip the Apostle School, 492 Saddle River Road, Saddle Brook, NJ 07663.

EVERGREEN PROGRAM educates students in grades nine through twelve with behavioral and/or psychiatric disabilities. The program gives students the opportunity to mainstream into core or elective courses, while providing the educational and extensive emotional supports each student needs to be successful in a mainstream high school.

Contact information: Kelly Lopez, 201-302-5200, ext. 5620/kellope@bergen.org.

Address: c/o Leonia High School, 100 Christie Heights Street, Leonia, NJ 07605.

GATEWAY HIGH SCHOOL is a secondary school program designed to educate students with behavioral and/or learning disabilities with a need for improved coping and/or social skills. Major emphasis is placed on career exploration through internship experiences and employment based on the students' career interests. Students may participate in Physical Education and other core and elective courses at Hackensack High School.

Contact Information: Kelly Lopez, 201-343-6000 ext.3502/kellope@bergen.org.

Address: Gateway High School, c/o Congregation Beth Tikvah, 304 East Midland Avenue, Paramus, NJ 07652.

NOVA ELEMENTARY/EMERSON, located at the Patrick M. Villano Elementary School, utilizes a number of strategies and tools to bring high-interest academic activities to our students. NOVA Elementary serves students in grades three through six with behavioral and learning disabilities. Our teachers are Highly Qualified (HQT) and we offer school-based counseling and related services. Our highly trained, experienced staff creates a nurturing and supportive environment in a semi-contained setting with mainstream opportunities.

Contact Information: Kelly Lopez, 201-343-6000 ext. 5800/kellope@bergen.org.

Address: c/o Patrick A. Villano Elementary School, 100 High Street, Emerson, NJ 07630.

BEHAVIORAL CONTINUUM *(cont.)*

NOVA NORTH at Emerson Junior/Senior High School educates students in grades seven through twelve with behavioral and/or learning disabilities requiring educational and emotional supports. We offer school-based counseling and related services. Our highly trained, experienced staff creates a nurturing and supportive environment in a semi-contained setting with mainstream opportunities. The NOVA staff works with parents/guardians and local districts to ensure students are successful academically, behaviorally, and socially.

Contact Information: Kelly Lopez, 201-343-6000 ext. 5800/kellope@bergen.org.

Address: c/o Emerson Junior/Senior High School, 131 Main Street, Emerson, NJ 07630.

NORTH STREET SCHOOL is a comprehensive school-to-careers program combining in-classroom career education and on-site learning labs with community-based career exploration, internships, and paid employment for students in grades nine through twelve. The program provides an individualized and highly intensive behavioral management system for students with serious behavioral disabilities.

Contact information: Reginald Marc, 201-336-3958/regmar@bergen.org.

Address: 200 North Street, Teterboro, NJ 07608.

The **VENTURE PROGRAM** is designed to address the therapeutic and educational needs of students in grades five through twelve who have recently been discharged from a psychiatric hospital or are currently exhibiting serious psychiatric symptoms.

Contact Information: Kelly Lopez, 201-343-6000, ext. 3502/kellope@bergen.org.

Address: Venture Program, c/o Congregation Beth Tikvah, 304 East Midland Avenue, Paramus, NJ 07652.

DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING CONTINUUM

ELEMENTARY HEARING IMPAIRED PROGRAM (HIP) at MIDLAND PARK educates children ages three through grade six through an Auditory-Oral approach. Housed in the host district of Midland Park, HIP follows the curriculum of the Midland Park Public Schools and offers students inclusion opportunities and interaction with age-appropriate, non-disabled peers.

Contact Information: Kathleen LoCascio, 201-343-6000, ext. 6480/katloc@bergen.org.

Address: Godwin/Highland Schools, 41 East Center Street, Midland Park, NJ 07432.

ELEMENTARY HEARING IMPAIRED PROGRAM (HIP) at UNION STREET SCHOOL provides preschool through sixth-grade students with educational opportunities that promote language, cognition, signed and verbal communication skills, and a strong sense of self-esteem. The program utilizes a general education curriculum adapted when needed to meet the unique learning styles of each student. HIP follows the curriculum of the Hackensack Public School District. Students in grades PreK-4 participate in academic and elective classes in the Hackensack Public Schools.

Contact Information: Kathleen LoCascio, 201-343-6000 ext. 6400/katloc@bergen.org.

Address: 293-295 Main Street, Hackensack, NJ 07601.

SECONDARY HEARING IMPAIRED PROGRAM (SHIP) Midland Park educates students in grades seven through twelve. This unique program offers education for oral students with mainstreamed classes or small group instruction depending on student needs. Students are eligible to participate in school clubs and after-school sports. The program follows the Midland Park High School General Education curriculum and grading procedures.

Contact Information: Kathleen LoCascio, 201-444-8882/201-343-6000, Ext. 6490/TTY: 201-444-9308/katloc@bergen.org.

Address: Midland Park Jr./Sr. High School, 250 Prospect Street, Midland Park, NJ 07432.

LIFE SKILLS CONTINUUM

NORMAN A. BLESHMAN REGIONAL DAY SCHOOL educates students ages three through twenty-one with significant multiple disabilities, offering a comprehensive academic/functional/career-based curriculum and an intensive therapy program. Community integration, a Career Learning Lab, and Model Apartment with integrated OT allow students to learn and apply skills in real-life settings. The preschool program focuses on a curriculum from *Curiosity Corner*, as well as fosters the integrated therapy model.

Contact Information: Gail Coe, 201-343-6000, ext. 6442/gaicoe@bergen.org.

Address: 333 East Ridgewood Avenue, Paramus, NJ 07652.

CAREER CROSSROADS offers shared-time vocational programs at its Paramus campus for students in grades eleven, twelve, and twelve plus. Students are currently enrolled in *Sales & Customer Service* and *Hospitality & Food Service* training programs. Additional research regarding the employment outlook for various occupations will determine additional programs that BCSS will develop and implement in the future.

Sales & Customer Service is designed to prepare participants for entry-level retail sales and customer service-related positions. This comprehensive program provides support for successful entry and advancement in service-related careers. Customer service, sales, and literacy standards have been integrated into a fully-developed

LIFE SKILLS CONTINUUM *(CONT.)*

Sales and Service curriculum based on the National Retail Federation Foundations's Sales and Service Learning Program.

A unique component of the program, the Career Crossroads Gift Shop, allows students to work in a retail setting and provides opportunities for hands-on experience in marketing, merchandising, inventory, and customer service.

Hospitality & Food Service is designed to prepare participants for entry-level hospitality and food service-related positions, and provides support for successful entry and advancement in food service and hospitality-related careers. Food service, preparation, and hospitality coursework have been integrated into a fully-developed Hospitality and Food Service Curriculum. This program encompasses food specific areas including food prep, food sanitation and safety, hospitality, and workplace readiness. Students study aspects of the field through direct application and development of skills in practical situations.

Contact information: Patti Wojtowicz, 201-343-6000 ext. 4304/patwoj@bergen.org.

Address: 296 East Ridgewood Avenue, Paramus, NJ 07652.

SPRINGBOARD NORTH and **SPRINGBOARD SOUTH** provide transition services including independent living skills, career exploration, job placement, and social/emotional development for students with disabilities who have completed a four-year high school and need continuing and intensive transition skills development. The Council for Exceptional Children life-centered career education curriculum enables students to learn and practice all skills in a "home," the community, or the workplace and assists them in obtaining and maintaining employment, obtaining adult supports, and using public transportation or AccessLink.

Contact Information: Robert Mortorano, 201-343-6000 ext. 8539/robmort@bergen.org.
Addresses: *Springboard North*, 321 East Ridgewood Avenue, Paramus, NJ 07652; *Springboard South*, 27 Lincoln Place, Garfield, NJ 07026.

TRANSITION CENTER AT WOOD-RIDGE educates students, ages ten through twenty-one, with disabilities who demonstrate delays in the cognitive and behavioral domains. Instruction focuses on developing each student's independent living skills to their full potential. The Center provides intensive instruction in functional and applied academics, using community-based learning environments to apply skills. Highlights include community integration at a variety of community and work sites and job placement with supports.

Contact Information: Robert Mortorano, 201-343-6000,

ext. 3602/robmort@bergen.org.

Address: 304 Valley Boulevard, Wood-Ridge, NJ 07075.

VISIONS EMERSON educates students with multiple disabilities in grades seven through twelve. The supportive yet challenging environment is designed to maximize educational opportunities within a traditional high school setting. VISIONS utilizes a number of strategies and assistive technology to make high-interest academic activities available to students. The program offers inclusion and mainstreaming opportunities based upon each student's abilities, interests, and grade level. Transition services are an integral part of the program and assist students with postsecondary planning.

Contact information: Kelly Lopez, 201-343-6000 ext. 5812/kellope@bergen.org.

Address: c/o Emerson Junior/Senior High School, 131 Main Street, Emerson, NJ 07630.

VISIONS PARAMUS ELEMENTARY (K-4) and **VISIONS PARAMUS MIDDLE SCHOOL (5-8)** educate students with physical and/or multiple disabilities in a barrier-free setting designed to maximize inclusion opportunities in a traditional school setting. Therapeutic and Assistive Technology supports are provided to optimize student participation and success.

Contact information: Grisel Espinosa, 201-343-6000 ext. 6565/griesp@bergen.org.

Addresses: Parkway Elementary School, 145 East Ridgewood Avenue, Paramus, NJ 07652/West Brook Middle School, 560 Roosevelt Boulevard, Paramus, NJ 07652.

PRESCHOOL CONTINUUM

BELA—Bergen Early Learning Alliance—educates preschool students with disabilities in an inclusive preschool setting. The *Curiosity Corner* curriculum, related services, and enrichment activities in physical education, art, and music are all components of this program. Parents have the option of accessing before- and after-school day care services.

Contact Information: Tara Bohan, 201-343-6000 ext. 4079/tarboh@bergen.org.

Address: 284 Hackensack Avenue (Rear Entrance), Hackensack, NJ 07601.

CONSULTANT PROGRAMS

Consultant Model programs involve partnerships between local school districts that have identified a cadre of students with similar educational needs, and BCSS, which provides the staff and services needed to appropriately serve these students within their local schools.

Currently, there are seven programs operating under this model.

For more information on Consultant Model Programs, please contact Mitchell Badiner at 201-343-6000 ext. 4070

The **BOGOTA PROGRAM** educates academically challenged 7th- and 8th-grade students with multiple disabilities who require additional support in a mainstream setting. With a focus on developing educational and motivational strategies that best serve students' individualized academic and social needs, the program offers self-contained classes, in-class supports, and mainstreamed classes designed to assist students in transitioning to less-restrictive environments.

Contact information: Kelly Lopez, 201-343-6000 ext. 5800/kellope@bergen.org.

Address: c/o Bogota Junior/Senior High School, 2 Henry C. Luthin Place, Bogota, NJ 07603.

The **MANCHESTER PROGRAM** educates ninth- through twelfth-grade students with multiple disabilities. The supportive yet challenging environment is designed to maximize inclusion opportunities within a traditional high school setting. The program provides the academic, vocational, and behavioral supports needed to optimize student participation in the school, the community, and the workplace.

Contact Information: Mitchell Badiner, 973-389-2849/mitbad@bergen.org.

Address: c/o Manchester Regional High School, 70 Church Street, Haledon, NJ 07508.

NOVA @ RIDGEWOOD educates students in kindergarten through grade four with behavioral disabilities in a semi-contained setting with mainstream opportunities. The program utilizes a number of strategies and tools to bring high interest academic activities to students.

Contact information: Kelly Lopez, 201-343-6000 ext. 5800/kellope@bergen.org.

Address: c/o Somerville Elementary School, 45 South Pleasant Avenue, Ridgewood, NJ 07450.

WASHINGTON @ HANOVER educates students, ages seven to nine, classified with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), Asperger's Syndrome (AS), Pervasive Developmental Disorder (PDD), and Pervasive Development Disorder-Not Otherwise Specified (PDD-NOS). The program provides comprehensive applied behavior analysis (ABA) teaching methodologies in a traditional school environment, offering students a transition model toward the least restrictive school setting. Emphasis is on higher-order language and social skills, and self-regulation.

Contact information: Sandra Melicharek, 201-343-6000 ext. 5850/sanmel@bergen.org.

Address: c/o Bee Meadow School, 120 Reynolds Avenue, Whippany, NJ 07981.

WASHINGTON @ TRI-VALLEY is designed to meet the academic, social, behavioral, and vocational needs of students ages three to twenty-one, with ASD, AS, PDD, and PDD-NOS. The program offers highly individualized instructional formats based upon the principles of ABA. Services include occupational, physical, and speech therapies; family training; home program coordination; and augmentative communication assessment. Programs include language, social, behavioral, and academic development. The secondary program utilizes the support services of a full-time job coach to assist students with internships, as well as local employment experiences.

Contact information: Sandra Melicharek, 201-385-8600 ext. 1358/sanmel@bergen.org.

Addresses: c/o *Grant School*, 100 Grant Avenue, Dumont, NJ 07628; *Hoover Elementary School*, 273 Murray Hill Terrace, Bergenfield, NJ 07621; *Lincoln Elementary School*, 115 Highview Avenue, Bergenfield, NJ 07621; *Roy Brown Middle School*, 130 S. Washington Avenue, Bergenfield, NJ 07621; and *Bergenfield High School*, 80 S. Prospect Avenue, Bergenfield, NJ 07621.

WASHINGTON @ PASSAIC VALLEY REGIONAL HS is designed to meet the academic, social, behavioral, and vocational needs of high school students who are diagnosed with ASD, AS, PDD, and PDD-NOS. The program offers highly individualized instructional formats based upon the principles of ABA. Services include occupational, physical, and speech therapies; family training; home program coordination; and augmentative communication assessment. Programs include language, social, behavioral, and academic development, and utilize the services of a full-time job coach to assist with internships and employment experiences within local communities.

Contact information: Sandra Melicharek, 201-343-6000 ext. 5850/sanmel@bergen.org.

Address: c/o Passaic Valley Regional High School, 100 East Main Street, Little Falls, NJ 07424.

VISIONS BECTON educates students with multiple disabilities in grades nine through twelve. A supportive yet challenging environment maximizes inclusion opportunities within a traditional high school setting. The program provides the functional and applied academic, vocational, and independent living supports needed to optimize student participation in school, community, and workplace.

Contact Information: Robert Mortorano, 201-343-6000 ext. 3521/robmort@bergen.org.

Address: c/o Henry P. Becton Regional High School, 120 Paterson Ave, East Rutherford, NJ 07073.

Bergen County Special Services Adult Continuum offers a variety of choices for individuals with intellectual disabilities residing in Bergen County. BCSS operates five programs for adults 21 years of age and older: Paramus Adult Training Center, Wood-Ridge Adult Training Center, Careers through Technology, Stepping Stones and Progressive Paths. All of the programs provide services using a person centered planning approach. Instruction is designed to increase skill development and independence in several key areas: prevocational training, skills of daily living, personal development, social competency and participation in the community.

Program participants have the opportunity to learn new skills, become increasingly self-aware regarding their interests, strengths and support needs and participate in small group instruction. Activities include, but are not limited to: cooking, money management, safety, social skills, technology, leisure activities and volunteerism. Instruction is increasingly community based, providing adults the opportunity to learn skills in natural settings and interact with members of the community. BCSS is committed to providing quality services in a positive and nurturing environment, enabling each adult to maximize their skills.

Contact Information: Janice D'Aiuto, (201) 343-6000 ext. 6025/6031/jandai@bergen.org.
Address: 296 East Ridgewood Avenue, Paramus, NJ 07075.

CAREERS THROUGH TECHNOLOGY is a technology-based program for adults aged 21 and older with physical and/or intellectual disabilities residing in Bergen County. Funded by the Division of Developmental Disabilities, the program utilizes a person centered planning approach to locate job sampling and volunteer opportunities. This dynamic program offers an instructional blend of technology instruction, employment preparedness skills, career exploration, travel training, advocacy, time management, social skills in the work setting, critical thinking skills, community linkages, and transitioning-to-independence discussion groups.

Contact Information: Janice D'Aiuto, (201) 343-6000 ext. 6025/6031/jandai@bergen.org.

Address: Careers Through Technology, 296 East Ridgewood Avenue, Paramus, 07652.

The **PROGRESSIVE PATHS** program provides a positive and nurturing environment for individuals that benefit from a higher staffing ratio than the BCSS Adult Training Centers. This program provides individual and small group instruction in prevocational skills, skills of daily living and community-based instruction. The program focuses on increasing independence and the ability to connect with others, as well as the ability to effectively respond to tasks and challenges and follow a daily routine.

Contact Information: Janice D'Aiuto, (201) 343-6000 ext. 6025/3602/jandai@bergen.org.

Address: Progressive Paths, 304 Valley Boulevard, Wood-Ridge, NJ 07075.

BCSS has developed a highly structured program for adults with intellectual disabilities who benefit from instruction in small sequential steps, multiple opportunities for reinforcement, and a higher level of staffing for behavioral supports. The **STEPPING STONES** program provides instruction in prevocational skill development, skills of daily living, leisure-based activities and community inclusion activities.

The **WOOD-RIDGE** and **PARAMUS ADULT TRAINING CENTERS** are designed for individuals with intellectual disabilities who benefit from facility-based and community-based instruction in the following areas:

Prevocational Training/Volunteerism

- Independence and Quality
- Following Directions
- Learning New Tasks
- Problem Solving and Self Correcting

Social Competency

- Self-Awareness
- Coping Skills
- Problem Solving
- Choice and Decision Making
- Relationship Building
- Self-Advocacy

Skill Development

- General Daily Living Skills
- Safety
- Planning Skills
- Technology
- Functional Academics

Community Inclusion

- Enjoyment and Education
- Safety
- Leisure Activities
- Community Resources

BCSS is a qualified provider for Self-Directed Services (SDDS), Individual Community Supports and Services (ICSS) and is now a DDD/Medicaid provider.

Educational Enterprises supports the fundamental concept that all children can grow up, learn, and gain valuable educational opportunities together.

Educational Enterprises has been implementing its unique vision for special education since its inception. The inclusion of students with disabilities in their local schools and communities is not only a legislative mandate but also a challenging direction for all educators. The Educational Enterprises division offers highly specialized services that are cost-effective and customized to the specific needs of each local school district, enabling those districts to maximize their educational resources.

All services are provided in the local schools or students' communities. Our expert staff work to effectively include students with their non-disabled peers, enhance faculty skills through professional development and on-site support, and promote understanding of diversity and the acceptance of differences within schools and communities. With over thirty years of experience, the Bergen County Special Services School District is committed to providing quality education that enables all students to become contributing members of society.

Contact information: Grisel Espinosa 201-343-6000 ext. 6500/griesp@bergen.org.
Address: Educational Enterprises, 540 Farview Avenue, Paramus, NJ 07652.

ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY services include: Comprehensive AT evaluations to determine appropriate technology tools to assist students in accessing curriculum; Provision of ongoing AT modifications to meet student needs; In-service training for local district staff; and, equipment rentals including laptops with AT software.

AUGMENTATIVE/ALTERNATIVE COMMUNICATION SERVICES offers students with severe communication disabilities the opportunity to have a voice and be heard. Services include evaluations, trainings, consultation for staff and families, in-services, and AAC equipment rentals.

BEHAVIOR ANALYSIS SERVICES include: Consulting Services; Direct Student Services, including Social Skills Instruction and ABA Home Program Implementation and Coordination; Professional Development seminars and workshops; and ABA Workshops including the four-day Summer Behavior Institute held in July.

EDUCATIONAL SERVICES. Consultative Services for Academic Supports including interventions for students with Dyslexia. Services can be provided through direct instruction or staff trainings.

INCLUSION/MAINSTREAMING, CLASSROOM MANAGEMENT, BEHAVIOR INTERVENTION STRATEGIES, TEACHERS AND PARAPROFESSIONALS. On-Site Consulting Services; Direct Student Services including Paraprofessional Shadowing and Implementing Instructional Strategies; and Professional Development for Teachers and Paraprofessionals on topics such as Understanding Disabilities, Transition, Community-based Learning, and Effective Behavioral Strategies on the school bus.

OCCUPATIONAL, PHYSICAL, AND SPEECH THERAPY. Our therapists are skilled clinicians who possess extensive experience working with children and adolescents with developmental, sensory pro-

cessing, neuromuscular disorders, and learning disabilities. Services include: Comprehensive evaluations, Direct Treatment services, Inclusion Support, and Staff Development workshops.

SOUND SOLUTIONS—Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. Services include: Student Intervention Services, such as academic support to students in inclusive settings; Assessment of auditory skill development; and Monitoring of hearing aids, cochlear implants, and classroom amplification systems. Consulting Services and Staff Development workshops are offered.

THERAPEUTIC ADVENTURE is designed to foster improvement in communication, decision-making, and personal potential awareness for K-12 and Special Education students. Program objectives include: Self-esteem; Positive peer relations; Coping, dealing with the future; and, Problem solving and communication skills. Activities include: Challenge course activities; Problem-solving games; and Team-building activities. Resources such as professional equipment, two highly trained staff members, annual safety inspections, and outdoor challenge and indoor gym courses are available.

TRANSITION SERVICES assists students in making a successful transition from school to adult life, including employment, postsecondary education options, and community living. Individual Services include: Travel training; Job shadowing, internships, and industry tours; Postsecondary guidance; and, Vocational assessments. Training services include in-service training and staff development.

YOGA AND MINDFULNESS IN THE CLASSROOM. Therapeutic Yoga and Mindfulness Training conducted by trained O.T. and P.T. Classes and staff training available.

COUNSELING SERVICES. School-based counseling, group and individual, conducted by certified School Psychologist.

Bergen County Special Services

CAPE Resource Center

Collaboration Access Planning Education

THE CAPE RESOURCE CENTER SERVES AS A:

- Resource for BCSS students and families;
- Resource for BCSS case managers and faculty;
- Resource for BCSS adults and their families;
- Resource for families and individuals throughout the greater Bergen County region;
- Resource for education and disability services professionals throughout the region.

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The mission of the Bergen County Special Services CAPE Resource Center is to serve individuals with disabilities from infancy through adulthood as a central point of contact for guidance and connection to accessible and appropriate resources.

The Center is committed to helping individuals and families access the system of resources to enrich all aspects of life.

Over forty years of experience has shown us that one of the greatest challenges facing families and individuals is learning to navigate the system of services for people with disabilities throughout their lifespan. As a result, the District created the BCSS CAPE Resource Center, a one-stop information and assistance center that is open to everyone who is involved in the special needs community. The CAPE Center further expands the District's services by offering access to educational opportunities and disability resources for families, individuals, and service providers serving the special needs population in the greater Bergen County area. It serves as a "clearinghouse" of knowledge of disability resources located throughout the region, and promotes awareness of and linkages to services, information, and resources. We offer informational, educational, professional development, and networking opportunities to professionals and parents to enhance service coordination, information sharing, and skills building. We also partner with other service providers to conduct workshops, trainings, seminars, and other meetings related to their respective client services directly at the CAPE.

RESOURCE COORDINATION

Families often experience feelings of isolation and emotional stress, as well as frustration over a lack of information and direction regarding their child's disability. We are available to answer questions, offer consultation and support regarding services and community resource options, and provide follow-up to ensure quality of service. As their children grow, families can utilize the CAPE's Resource Center at life's various transition points. We are here to help.

EDUCATIONAL WORKSHOPS

Ongoing workshops are offered to families and professionals. The CAPE Resource Center affords Professional Development opportunities and PD credits to special education and general education teachers, support staff, and administrators throughout the greater Bergen County region. Workshops conducted by the Bergen County Special Services Behavior Department provide BACB Type 2 CE credits.

Previous workshops have covered topics that include:

- Parenting Skills
- Executive Functioning and School Success
 - Annual Camp/Recreation Expo
- Parent Support Groups—ongoing monthly meetings for parents/caregivers of youth *and* ongoing monthly meetings for parents/caregivers of adults with disabilities
 - Transition/Transition Planning
 - Support Groups
 - Guardianship/Estate Planning/Special Needs Trusts/Financial Planning
 - Behavioral Interventions/Social Skills Workshop
 - Entitlements



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