



Special Education

Our Program for Students with Exceptionalities (PSE)

At PPS, we are committed to ensuring that all children receive the education they deserve, including special education and related services. Through our PSE program, we strive to meet the unique needs of all students with disabilities, and write Individualized Education Plans (IEPs) to help them reach their full academic, social, emotional, and vocational potential.

Our services range from individualized supports in neighborhood schools to comprehensive, full-day programs at one of our PSE Education Centers.

The PSE Mission

Each student has a right to a welcoming environment that is accessible, emotionally nourishing, culturally responsive, physically safe, purposefully engaging, and intellectually challenging.



Children ages 3 to 21 are eligible for special education services through Pittsburgh Public Schools.

What should you do if you think your child has a disability?

Please request a screening if you believe your child has a disability that would interfere with his or her learning. The PSE Department at PPS will conduct a variety of screenings including hearing and vision screenings, assessment of your child's academic functioning, observation of the student's behavior, and response to attempted remediation.

We also value your input as a parent in our recommendation for special education services. You may contact your school's counselor, social worker, or principal to request a screening, or call the PSE office at 412-529-3132.

Child Find Mandate

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act includes the Child Find mandate. Child Find requires all school districts to identify, locate, and evaluate all children with disabilities, regardless of the severity of their disabilities.

Achieving the PSE Mission

Achieving this goal will require:

Research-based curriculum and instruction in the least restrictive environment driven by high expectations for all students with disabilities

Collaboration and shared responsibility of all stakeholders, including students, families, PPS staff, and community members

Optimizing student achievement through data-driven decisions that inform assessment, instruction, and progress monitoring

Providing teachers with professional learning, instructional support, and resources to impact student achievement


Expect great things.



Programs to Help Students Succeed

Students with disabilities can reach their fullest potential when provided appropriate special education supports and services. The following programs are available at PPS:

- Learning Support
- Speech and Language Support
- Emotional Support Program (regional classrooms)
- Autistic Support (regional classrooms)
- Multiple Disabilities Support (regional classrooms)
- Vision Support (regional classrooms)
- Deaf/Hearing Support
- City Connections (ages 18–21 at various sites)
- Start On Success (ages 18–21)
- Community Based Vocational Education (ages 14–21)
- Travel Instruction

Related Services include:

- Speech and Language
- Occupational Therapy
- Hearing
- Physical Therapy
- Vision
- Audiology
- Orientation and Mobility

PSE Centers

Three special education centers located in different neighborhoods of the District provide comprehensive support for students and their families. At Conroy Education Center on the North Side and Pioneer Education Center in Brookline, a wide range of services are available for students who require life skills support, autistic support, and multiple disability support. Classrooms are staffed with highly experienced special education teachers and paraprofessionals. In addition, medical professionals such as nurses, hearing and vision specialists, physical and occupational therapists, speech/language communication specialists, and others collaborate to meet the needs of the whole child.

Oliver Citywide Academy offers emotional support for students in grades 3–12. The PPS curriculum is followed, with special adaptations made for each student's IEP. Staff is well-versed in Oliver's school-wide behavioral management system and reinforces the positive behavioral support plans for individual students. They are also trained in therapeutic crisis interventions.



Valuable parent resources, including a link to The Pittsburgh Local Task Force on the Right to Education, are available online at pghschools.org/collaboratingfamilies.

Is your young child developmentally delayed?

Children between the ages of three and admission to kindergarten may be eligible for the program if screening tests indicate they are delayed in one of these critical areas: cognitive, communicative, physical, social/emotional, and self-help.

Contact the PPS Early Intervention Office at 412-323-3960 for more information.

Need more information?

Contact the PSE office at 412-529-3132. For a list of PSE staff, visit pghschools.org/specialeducation.

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=如需获得本文件的中文帮助，请拨打电话412-529-6463致电九号线，并选择选项 #4

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