

community. *services*



Discovering the unique potential
within every child

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Helping our community public and private schools include children with disabilities in their classes and programs



Discovering the unique potential within every child

Understanding inclusion

P. G. Chambers School helps community public and private schools **include** students with disabilities into their classes and programs by providing on-site **related services, consultations, and training.**

Related services help classified students benefit from special education. These services are specified in the student's IEP and are implemented in conjunction with the special education program. Many times the related services in the special education program are provided within the classroom setting. Each contract is specifically designed and customized to meet the needs of students with disabilities attending the contract schools.



A uniquely important component of PGCS Community Services (formerly Contract Services) is our ability to provide consultation and training that will help the student be included in the school population and access the curriculum. Through classroom observations, problem-solving, and collaboration, we help general education teachers and school staff to enhance their knowledge and skills to meet the student's educational needs. Contracts may be short-term or long-term and imply continuing services over a period of time.



- **Related services** are provided according to NJ Special Education Code (NJAC 6A:14) Chapter 14 - Special Education NJAC Title 6A: Related services
- "...shall be provided to a student with a disability when required for the student to benefit from the education program" 6A:14-3.9(a)
- "Therapy services may be integrated into the context of ongoing activities or routines and provided by personnel set forth in the student's IEP" 6A:14-3.9(a)10
- All school-related service providers **must** have the NJ School Certificate as well as their professional license to provide services in the educational environment

Services PGCS provides to meet the needs of children in community schools

P.G. Chambers School's experienced and highly qualified staff provides educationally-based services to public school districts and private schools that maximize inclusive



opportunities for students with disabilities. PGCS believes in using a collaborative approach in working with each school. Partnering with teachers, case managers, families, and students, we work as a team focused on successful outcomes for students with disabilities: designing and customizing services, problem-solving challenges, attending and contributing to IEP meetings, and delivering training and educational programs.

Services include:

- Related services including feeding and assistive technology evaluations
- Direct occupational, physical, and speech therapy services
- Special education and assistive technology consultations
- Feeding consultation and training
- Workshops and seminars



P.G. Chambers School makes every effort to accommodate contracts with schools in fulfillment of our mission that each child will have the skills to be included in a general education setting at the appropriate time.

An Overview of Community Services

Independent Evaluations

Physical Therapy

- Accessibility
- Adaptive seating and equipment
- Navigation of the school environment and access to the curriculum
- Adapted physical education consultation
- Assessment of the student's strength, endurance, gross motor skills, and balance, and how these factors contribute to the student's success throughout the school day

Occupational Therapy

- Fine motor skills, visual motor skills
- Performance of tasks for learning and accessing the curriculum
- Sensory integration
- Splinting and adaptations
- Recommendations for environmental designs

Speech-Language Pathology

- Receptive and expressive language
- Auditory processing
- Functional communication skills
- Social pragmatics
- Speech intelligibility
- Oral motor-feeding
- Augmentative Alternative Communication (AAC)
- Assistive technology

Assistive Technology

- School curriculum
- School and class environment
- Seating and positioning
- Low, medium, and high technology assessment (boards, tablets, iPads, switches, mounts)
- Fine motor access for AT
- Comparisons of writing and typing
- AAC/Communication
- Visual strategies
- iPad and tablet use and app recommendations
- Implementation strategies

Direct Services

- Implement physical, occupational, and speech therapy for individual students as specified in the child's IEP, using either a pull-out or push-in approach

Consultations

- Support to teachers, students, and other educational staff through consultative services
- Providing, modifying, and implementing appropriate strategies so that all students can actively participate with their peers in the school
- Adapting equipment and the environment to allow the student to successfully participate in the school day

Assistive Technology Program

- Includes equipment, orthotics, splinting, and devices to help students successfully access the school environment and curriculum
- The Assistive Technology Team: educators, occupational therapists, physical therapists, and speech-language pathologists with advanced training in assistive technology (Certificate in Assistive Technology from Stockton College, Advanced Practitioner Wheelchair Seating and Positioning from Stockton College, and RESNA APT Certification)

Workshops

Developed from the expressed needs of school districts; for example:

- Making Sense of our Senses: How Teachers can Effectively Address Sensory Processing to Promote Learning
- Using Movement to Improve Attention and Focus
- Assistive Technology: Linking Education, Access, and Movement
- Technology in the Classroom: Low to High Tech
- Applying Proloquo2Go in the Classroom Setting
- Designing Classrooms to Facilitate Learning





Are Community Services for you?

Your answers to the following statements will help you decide if P.G. Chambers School Community Services are right for your school.

We are anticipating that our school's population of children with disabilities will grow in the next few years.

- Yes No

We are serving children with more complex and specialized needs in our school.

- Yes No

We are having difficulties meeting IEP requirements for therapy.

- Yes No

Our staff has an increased need for in-service training around disabilities.

- Yes No

If you answered the majority of statements "Yes", PGCS Community Services may be your answer.

Frequently Asked Questions

What makes P.G. Chambers School qualified to provide related services at my school?

Meeting the needs of children with disabilities has been the single focus of PGCS for more than 60 years, positioning us as a leader and innovator in the field of special education in New Jersey. With a staff of 187 experienced educators, including teachers and teaching assistants, occupational therapists, physical therapists, and speech therapists, we bring exceptional expertise to your school, flexible scheduling, state-of-the-art supervision, knowledge of best practice, and professional support.





At PGCS we use a strong interdisciplinary team approach in our programs, which prepares our therapists to work collaboratively in your school with your staff. The large number of therapists bring a diverse set of knowledge and skills to your school, including expertise in facilitating sensory processing, using movement to improve attention and learning, and using assistive technology in the classroom.

Will PGCS be able to customize our school's contract to fit the needs of our population?

P.G. Chambers School uses a collaborative approach when providing related services and educational consultation and training in the school environment. We will work with your school district to customize our range of services to meet your needs.

Can we contract for only one type of therapy, specialty, or service?

Each contract is tailored to meet your school's unique needs: from an individual therapy contract in a single discipline to any combination of related services, independent evaluations, assistive technology evaluations, equipment, splinting and orthotics, trainings, and workshops.

Can we cover family leave or staffing shortages at our school through a PGCS contract?

While most contracts with schools are long-term, we will make every effort to provide coverage for short-term leave in a school district.





What are the cost savings to my school for providing services through contracts?

The greatest area of financial benefit to your school is savings on personnel costs and benefits packages. School districts are billed only for days of service at the school, not for holidays and school closings, sick days, or cancellations. Our contract therapists are employees of PGCS and all costs and benefits are paid by PGCS.

How do we go about setting up services?

For more information, please visit our website at www.chambersschool.org, contact the director of Community Services at info@chambersschool.org, or call **973.829.8484**. For fee schedule, go to www.chambersschool.org/therapy-services/community-services/

P.G. Chambers School is a 501 (c) (3) organization that provides education and therapy services for children with complex, multiple disabilities, or those at risk for disabilities and developmental delays, and child care for children with and without disabilities. The school's mission statement is **"Discovering the unique potential within every child."** At P.G. Chambers School, "discovering potential" inspires us to provide the best, most comprehensive early childhood education for children with and without disabilities, and special education and therapy programs for children with disabilities and developmental delays. Since 1954, P.G. Chambers School has been changing the lives of children by helping them to develop a love of learning, to strive for independence, and most importantly, to develop unshakeable self-confidence.

Each year, P.G. Chambers School (PGCS), located in Morris County, NJ, provides services for more than 800 children and their families in Morris County and nine other surrounding counties in northern New Jersey. The school's programs reach children of all ages including typically developing infants, toddlers, and preschoolers, and infants at-risk for developmental disabilities; school-age children eligible for special education services; and children diagnosed with cerebral palsy, spina bifida, seizure disorders, autism, and communication disabilities. Services are provided both on-site at the school's state-of-the-art facility in Cedar Knolls, and off-site in schools, homes, and child care centers throughout the region. Important partnerships with local school districts and community organizations help support PGCS students in their own communities. The school is accredited as an Approved Private School for Students with Disabilities and an Approved Clinic and Agency by the State of New Jersey, Department of Education.



“Our daughter received all the benefits of an inclusive education when our local school district collaborated with P.G. Chambers School Community Services Program, giving her the opportunity to attend school with her siblings and neighborhood friends.”

- Community Services Parent



For more information, contact
the director of Community Services
at info@chambersschool.org
or call 973.829.8484.



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