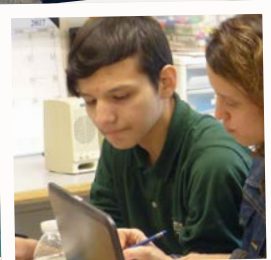




*Celebrating 40 Years
of Educational Excellence*



**FIVE-YEAR PLAN:
Preparing Students For
Independent Living
(2018-2023)**



**The Educational Services
Commission of New Jersey**

www.escnj.k12.nj.us



The Educational Services Commission of New Jersey's

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Dr. Dale Caldwell, *President*

Mr. Bill Petscavage, *Vice President*

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Preparing Students for Independent Living 2018-2023

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FOREWORD

**By ESCNJ Superintendent of Schools
Mark J. Finkelstein**

Dear Friends:

Welcome to the Educational Services Commission of New Jersey's (ESCNJ) Five Year Plan: *Preparing Students For Independent Living* (2018-2023). Since our inception, the ESCNJ has worked in partnership with its Board of Directors, and reached out to constituents through our Annual Survey as a basis for formulating each five year plan. The feedback has been instrumental in our ability to accurately assess existing shared services, and impact upon our decisions in creating new initiatives.



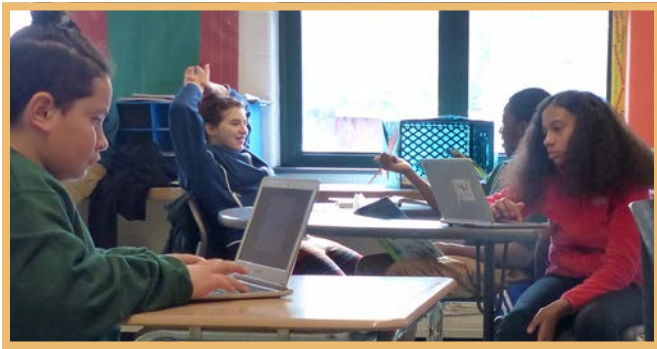
Once again, the feedback we have gained has been invaluable in guiding our 2018-2023 focus of "preparing students for independent living." Constituents, including parents, have identified a clear preference for placing higher functioning special education students in smaller, independent living facilities as opposed to large group homes. As a result, it is incumbent upon organizations like ours to identify ways to help increasing numbers of students solidify their ability to live independently.

To meet this challenge, we are in the midst of building a 50,000 square foot addition on our Piscataway Campus which will allow higher functioning classified students to acquire the skills necessary for a successful transition to independent living. The project is scheduled to be operational in the September 2019-2020 school year, at a cost not to exceed \$20 million.

The primary approach for helping more students gain independent living skills is to increase the capacity of our highly effective Community-based Instruction (CBI) program. CBI is a research based approach for teaching independent living skills and behavior management techniques. Our CBI program has already helped many students gain the functional living skills required for living and working independently through initiatives like:

Foreword (cont.)

- **Job sampling** – students learn to adapt to a workplace environment, and identify skills and interests for future employment.
- **Pre-vocational workshops** – students learn resume writing and job interviewing techniques, and receive training in simulated work environments in tasks like bagging groceries, folding laundry or sorting materials.



- **Community Education** – students learn a range of behavior management techniques to facilitate appropriate behavior in public settings like restaurants, movie theaters or museums; acquire skills to access public transportation, and make purchases in department stores and super markets.



The expansion will include 12 classrooms fully equipped for job training initiatives, and equipment to offer a robust science and mathematics curriculum. The addition will also include a contemporary 300 seat capacity professional development space and conference center, which will also be accessible for use by corporate partners and community members. Culinary and horticultural opportunities, along with a gymnasium and fitness area are also included in the expansion.



On behalf of the ESCNJ Board of Directors, I thank our many staff members, organizations, and volunteers for the tremendous support over the years. I trust you will enjoy learning more about our continued commitment to limit the tax impact on New Jersey residents while providing educational excellence for students and cost effective purchasing opportunities for schools and state agencies. ■



Preparing Students for Independent Living 2018-2023

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THE EDUCATIONAL SERVICES COMMISSION OF NEW JERSEY

Founded in 1977, the Educational Services Commission of New Jersey (ESCNI) is the largest ESC in the state. The ESCNI operates nine schools in Middlesex County; provides special education services to public and nonpublic districts statewide; coordinates transportation services for over 10,000 students, and manages a Co-op Pricing System with approximately 1,200 members, the largest cooperative buying program in New Jersey.

Central Office

1660 Stelton Road, Piscataway, NJ 08854
(732) 777-9848
www.escnj.k12.nj.us

ESCNI Schools

- Academy Learning Center (ALC)
- Bright Beginnings Learning Center (BBLC)
- Center for Lifelong Learning (CLL)
- Future Foundations Academy (FFA)
- NuView Academy (NA)
- NuView Academy Annex (NAA)
- Pathways to Adult Living (PAL)
- Piscataway Regional Day School (PRDS)
- Turning Point Academy (TPA)

ESCNI Services

- Administrator Search Services
- Autism, Cognitive Impairment, Multiple, Behavioral and Learning Disabilities
- Aquatics & Fitness Center
- Clinical Support Services
- Children's Specialized Hospital Patient Instructional Program
- Collaborative Educational Services
- Community-based Instruction
- Co-op Pricing System
- Extended School Year Summer Program
- Department of Nonpublic and Charter School Services
- Home Instruction
- Itinerant Services for Deaf & Hard of Hearing
- Lease Purchase Financing
- Piscataway Career Center
- Professional Development Academy
- Shared Services
- Special Education Review Service
- Technology Consulting
- Transition and Post-21 Services
- Transportation Services



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OVERVIEW OF ESCNJ SERVICES

- The Educational Services Commission of New Jersey is the state's largest Educational Services Commission, providing shared services in all 21 counties to school districts, municipalities, county governments, colleges, universities, libraries, and additional public entities
- The mission of the ESCNJ is "to provide educational 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 ESCNJ includes nine schools for student's ages 3-21 with autism, multiple disabilities, and at-risk behaviors, including two schools with on-site clinical support
- The ESCNJ supports school districts statewide through its Collaborative Educational Services (CES), to meet the needs of students with severe disabilities within their local school district



Continued from page 5

as an alternative to costly private special education schools

- The ESCNJ manages a Co-op Pricing System with over 1,200 members, saving millions of dollars by identifying the lowest price on equipment and services including but not limited to: technology products, grounds and maintenance equipment, security cameras and card access systems, electricity, natural gas, custodial supplies, boilers, and HVAC repairs
- Operates a Coordinated Transportation service, providing safe and efficient transportation statewide for approximately 10,000 students
- 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 the ESCNJ Department of Nonpublic School Services



- Operates a Professional Development Academy, offering workshops that meet or exceed established federal, state, and professional guidelines
- Supports Boards of Education statewide through its Superintendent, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary, and Special Education Administrative Search Service
- Provides impartial assessments and recommendations to public agencies through its Technology Consulting Service
- Collaborates with school districts through the ESCNJ Itinerant Services for Deaf & Hard of Hearing, helping families and state agencies support deaf and hard of hearing students



- Operates the Piscataway Career Center in partnership with The Arc Middlesex County, for Post-21 adults with special needs
- Operates the ESCNJ Aquatics & Fitness Center, which is open to the public, within the Center for Lifelong Learning ■



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AN HISTORIC PERSPECTIVE OF THE COMMISSION

- **What is an Educational Services Commission?**

On July 1, 1966, the New Jersey Legislature enacted legislation which made possible the creation of Educational Services Commissions (ESC) to provide regional delivery of educational services and programs to local public school districts.

The legislation defined an Educational Services Commission as “an agency established or to be established in one or more counties for the purposes of carrying on programs of educational research and development and providing to public school districts such educational and administrative services as may be authorized pursuant to rules of the State Board of Education.”

Educational Services Commissions may supplement the services available in local districts, but they may not substitute for the services that remain the legal responsibility of local public school districts.

- **Why were Educational Services Commissions created?**

For well over three decades, public schools have experienced an increasing number of well intentioned but underfunded state and federal mandates in their provision of services to students. To help public schools preserve local autonomy and still meet more stringent mandates, shared services, provided in partnership with ESC's were created.

Additionally, in 1977, the New Jersey Legislature enacted P.L. 192-193 which required local school districts to provide many newly mandated services to eligible nonpublic school students throughout the state. Implementation of the new laws by local school districts for nonpublic school students, the unique funding base provided, and the doctrine of separation of church and state made it obvious that the services mandated under P.L. 192-193 could be provided more efficiently through a county-wide collaborative approach.

Continued from page 7

- **What factors led to the founding of the Middlesex County Educational Services Commission in 1977?**

Following a needs assessment facilitated by the Middlesex County Superintendent of Schools, the Middlesex County School Boards Association and the Middlesex County Association of School Administrators, the creation of a Middlesex County ESC was recommended. After substantial deliberation, all entities unanimously supported a proposal to establish the Middlesex County Educational Services Commission (MCESC) as the appropriate entity to help local school districts meet the new mandates in a collaborative manner.

The New Jersey State Board of Education at its meeting on December 7, 1977, approved the establishment of an Educational Services Commission for Middlesex County, pursuant to rules and regulations of the State Board of Education and provisions of N.J.S.A.18A:6-52.

- **How did the Middlesex County Educational Services Commission grow to its current status as the Educational Services Commission of New Jersey?**

Our commitment to shared services as a means for providing high quality services at



reduced costs is what has fueled our growth. By the early part of the 21st century, the Commission was working with 75 school districts and state agencies encompassing 11 counties. The growth to counties beyond Middlesex prompted the Board of Directors at that time to request permission from the State Board of Education for a name more reflective of this growth. The State Board of Education concurred, and in 2005 unanimously approved the request to be renamed the Middlesex Regional Educational Services Commission.

The growth continued to the point that the Commission had developed shared services relationships with schools and state agencies in all 21 New Jersey counties. Once again, the expansion prompted the Board of Directors at that time to request a name change that accurately reflected our role as a statewide service provider. The State Board of Education agreed, unanimously approving the request to be renamed the Educational Services Commission of New Jersey in 2016.

- **Commission Activities (1977-2017)**

Founded in 1977, the programs and services available through the ESCNJ have included:

- a. Special education programs for students with disabilities:
 1. INNOVATIONS
 2. Piscataway Regional Day School – Regular Day Program and After-School Program



3. Academy Learning Center
4. Bright Beginnings Learning Center
5. Interim Alternative Educational Program
6. NuView Academy
7. NuView Academy Annex
8. Center for Lifelong Learning
9. Extended School Year Programs
10. Pathways to Adult Living
- b. Educational Services and Programs for Eligible Nonpublic School Students
 1. Title I program
 2. P.L. 192-193 Services:
 - Identification and Evaluation of Learning Disabled Pupils
 - Supplementary Instruction
 - Speech Services
 - Home Instruction
 - Compensatory Education
 - English-as-a-Second Language
 - IDEA-B Services
 - Chapter 226 Nonpublic School Nurses
 - Nonpublic Textbook Program
 - Public Child Study Team Support (includes evaluation and Case Management)
 - Technology Program
 - School Security Program
- c. Coordinated Transportation Services
- d. Home Instruction to Districts
- e. Professional Development Academy
- f. Computer Technology Consulting
- g. Collaborative Educational Services



- h. New Brunswick-Abbott Early Childhood Centers
- i. Advanced Solutions for Children in Collaboration with Princeton House
- j. In-District Summer School Programs
- k. Title I Supplemental Educational Services (SES)
- l. Joint Commodity Bidding and Purchasing
- m. Public and Nonpublic School Staff Development
- n. Technology Training within the Media Center
- o. Lead Agency for Collaborative Grant Preparation
- p. Computer Assisted Instruction
- q. Grant for County-Wide Staff Development in Transition Planning ■

Highlights from the Past Five Years 2013-2018



Increasing Internet Capacity for NJ Schools – The ESCNJ, Bergen County Technical Schools, and Dellicker Strategies joined forces to manage the NJDOE's Digital Readiness for Learning and Assessment Project. By cooperatively purchasing more broadband capacity, public, private and charter schools statewide gained high-speed bandwidth, at reduced costs to taxpayers.



Autism Awareness Fundraising – The ESCNJ has raised thousands of dollars for Autism New Jersey since establishing its annual Autism Awareness Swim & Play fundraising event in 2013.



CLL Murals Displayed at Noyes Museum of Art – Murals created by CLL students were on display in the "Young-at-Art Gallery" in the Noyes Museum of Art of Stockton University.



Innovations in Special Education Award for BBLC/Secondary – State Senate President Stephen Sweeney visited students and faculty from BBLC/Secondary, one of only seven schools in New Jersey to receive an Innovations in Special Education Award for their "creative effort to enable special needs students to achieve their potential," in recognition of the school's Coding and Robotics Club. The award is co-sponsored annually by the New Jersey School Boards Association and ASAH.

Highlights from the Past Five Years 2013-2018



Remarkable Gift To PRDS From Lowe's Heroes – A “Lowe's Heroes” grant from Lowe's Home Improvement was used to transform the modest exterior of PRDS into a spectacular outdoor setting, which also allowed for educational use. Over 100 employees from five stores in New Jersey, and four in New York, along with PRDS students and staff, worked to create the beautifully landscaped exterior.



NuView Academy Teachers Cited for Hybrid Learning Efforts – Teachers Nicole Elmini (L) and Laura Cagle were honored by the Hybrid Learning Institute for their outstanding implementation of Hybrid Learning (integration of new technologies with proven teaching strategies) in the classroom.



Governor Educator of the Year Recipients – Teachers are presented Governor Educator of the Year awards annually by ESCNJ Board of Directors. Above are 2016-2017 recipients with Board President Dr. Dale Caldwell.

Highlights from the Past Five Years 2013-2018



ALC Students Adapt Well in Corporate Environment – For years, students from ESCNJ CBI programs have worked effectively at small businesses, restaurants, ShopRite, Rutgers University, and other community employers. The opportunity to work in a corporate setting occurred when the Manalapan based RxS LLC, a provider of “Compliance Sample Management Solutions” to pharmaceutical and biotech companies, collaborated with ALC for several CBI students to review forms sent from doctor’s offices confirming receipt of drug samples.



Special Reader – Middlesex County Freeholder Director Ronald G. Rios was thanked by PRDS students for serving as a guest reader at Read Across America, the annual event incorporating Dr. Seuss books to encourage student reading.



NJSBA Presentation on Computer Coding Curriculum – ESCNJ Board President Dr. Dale Caldwell worked with a participant in ESCNJ’s “Running Robots! Computer Coding and Special Education,” Action Lab at the NJSBA Annual Workshop.



BBLC/Secondary Students Raise Awareness - Students from BBLC/Secondary walked to show their support of Autism Awareness Day.

Highlights from the Past Five Years 2013-2018



Productive Day Begins with 'Morning Meeting' at NAA –

To help students experience a smooth transition from their home to school environment each day, a structured 'Morning Meeting', including a personal welcome to each student, small group activity, exercise, and a morning message, was instituted at NAA .



Governor Phil Murphy Greets BBLC Student – Then candidate and now Governor Phil Murphy met with a BBLC student prior to spending an hour fielding a wide range of questions from the ESCNJ Board of Directors.



Board Vice President Supports CLL Greenhouse – ESCNJ

Board Vice President Bill Petscavage, who is also an accomplished gardener, shared horticultural tips and donated a Christmas Cactus to support ongoing projects.



Former PRDS Student's Memory Lives On – Mr. William Zuppa (center), who heads the OneManOneBikeOneChild organization, has raised funds for modest-income PRDS families for over 20 years, presenting a \$6,600 check to an appreciative parent. Mr. Zuppa has raised funds annually through organizations and individuals sponsoring his bike riding in honor of his nephew, former PRDS student Georgie Caunt, who passed away at age 14 in 1995.

Highlights from the Past Five Years 2013-2018

*Middlesex County
School Boards Association
Association of School Administrators*

*28th Annual
Student
Recognition
Program*

Honoring outstanding juniors and seniors in
Middlesex County's high schools

Wednesday, April 17, 2013
New Brunswick High School

Program

Musical Performance
New Brunswick High School Jazz Band
Carlos Cordova, Director

Flag Salute

Welcome and Introductions
Catherine Sucher Greeley, President
Middlesex County School Boards Association

Dr. Frank R. Alfano, President
Middlesex County Association of School Administrators

Dinner

Keynote Address
Mark J. Finkelstein

Superintendent,
Middlesex Regional Educational Services Commission
Founder, MCSBA-MCASA Student Recognition Dinner



Students Honored – Students, family members and staff at a Student Recognition program. Students are honored for their ability to continue achieving in school while coping with significant challenges.

Superintendent is Keynote Speaker – In 1985, Superintendent Mark J. Finkelstein, chaired the committee that founded the Student Recognition Program while serving on the New Brunswick Board of Education. Mr. Finkelstein was selected as the keynote speaker for the 2013 Student Recognition dinner.



Outdoor Classroom at ALC – ESCNJ Board Members Rosa Diaz, Jorge Diaz, and Principal Dr. Erik Solberg with students during a tour of the wheelchair friendly Nature Trail. The Nature Trail includes a bark board, birdhouses and a bug garden, and was coordinated by Monroe High School Junior Greg Braun to demonstrate his leadership skills in his effort to become an Eagle Scout.



Robotics Curriculum Instruction at NuView Academy and NuView Academy Annex – Assistant Superintendent for Learning/Educational Services Gary Molenaar with students engaged in robotics instruction, one of several ESCNJ curriculum enhancements designed for higher functioning special needs students.

Highlights from the Past Five Years 2013-2018



Name Change Request Approved – By a vote of 11-0, the New Jersey State Board of Education approved the then MRESC's Board of Directors' request to change its name to The Educational Services Commission of New Jersey (ESCNJ). The request was based on the Board's conviction that the Commission required a name reflective of the organization's growth from a Middlesex County Educational Services Commission to a statewide shared services provider.



First ESCNJ Board of Directors Meeting – Board members and administrators following the first meeting as the Educational Services Commission of New Jersey. In addition to including one representative from each Middlesex County school district, the Board was expanded to include six additional Directors from Boards of Education across the state.

Highlights from the Past Five Years 2013-2018



Professional Development Program on Inclusive Communities – A workshop on strengthening social and emotional support for students attracted approximately 100 educators statewide. Mr. Ian Hockley, who founded the Dylan’s Wings of Change Foundation in memory of his son Dylan, one of 20 first graders killed in the Sandy Hook Elementary School tragedy, facilitated the workshop. Mr. Hockley shared exercises from the foundations “Wingman Youth Leadership” program, which is focused on motivating all students to “go above and beyond and create inclusive communities in their schools, sports clubs, dance studios and more.”



Award for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) – The Center for Lifelong Learning was the first special needs public school to reach the United States Green Building Council’s LEED Platinum level, the highest of four LEED certifications. Superintendent Mark J. Finkelstein and Business Administrator Patrick M. Moran accepted the award on behalf of the ESCNJ.



Proclamation for Service to ESCNJ – Former Director of Human Resources Lorraine R. Small received a Proclamation for her many years of dedicated service at her final Board of Directors meeting.

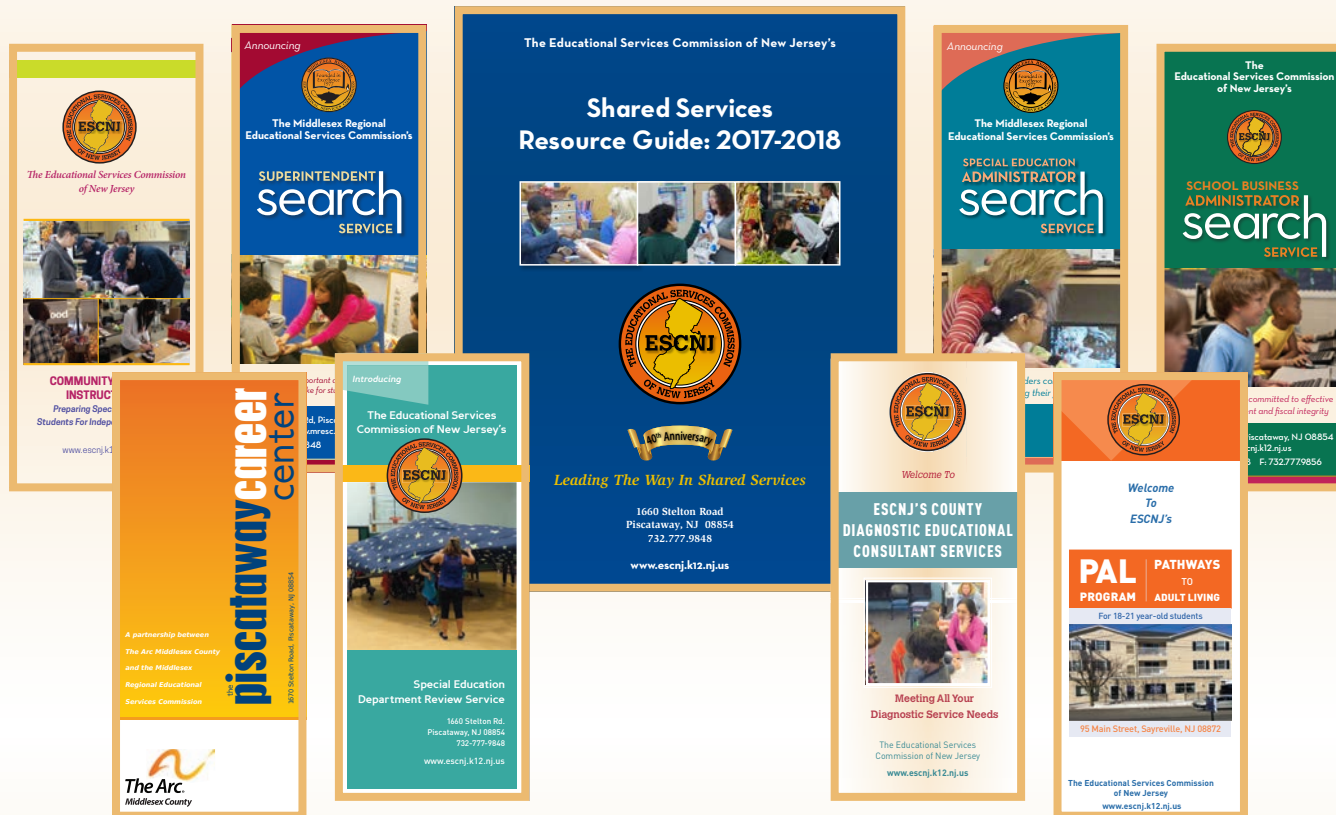


Commencement Speaker at Graduation – Middlesex County Freeholder Deputy Director Charles E. Tomaro addressed graduates at the BBLC/Secondary ceremony.



Senator Kean Visits CLL – Senate Republican Leader Tom Kean observing how advances in technology can positively influence classroom instruction.

Highlights from the Past Five Years 2013-2018



Statewide Shared Services – ESCNJ’s shared services include the operation of nine schools; Superintendent, Business and Special Education Administrative search services; Nonpublic School Services, Special Education Review Services; Coordinated Transportation; a Co-op Pricing System; Pathways to Adult Living and CBI.



Charter Schools and ESCNJ Hold Productive Seminar – Representatives from several Charter Schools met with ESCNJ administrators to review available services.



ESCNJ Launches Podcast on Shared Services – Featuring educators, state officials and community representatives, the Better Together podcast, hosted by Coordinator of Communications David Sandler, focused on school districts and state agencies offering services at reduced costs by participating in any of ESCNJ’s multitude of educational and business related Shared Services.

Highlights from the Past Five Years 2013-2018



Nonpublic Transportation Conference – An opportunity to address nonpublic transportation concerns, co-sponsored by the ESCNJ and NJDOE, attracted approximately 100 statewide transportation officials.



Growth in Annual Vendor Expo – The Vendor Expo offers school, county government, and municipal officials opportunities to examine major purchase items like grounds and maintenance equipment, furniture, flooring, and technology products from ESCNJ's Co-op Pricing System vendors. The event, which includes workshops for attendees to earn free state approved Continuing Education Units, was initially held on the Piscataway Campus but has grown to where it is now held at larger venues throughout central New Jersey.



Coordinated Transportation Services – The ESCNJ continues providing safe, reliable and cost effective transportation for schools throughout New Jersey.



Read Across America Day – Former Piscataway Police Department Chief Richard Ivone was a guest reader during Read Across America day.

Survey Results Overview (2017-2018)

Annual surveys to ESCNJ constituents are vital for evaluating ongoing services, creating new initiatives, and developing the 5-Year Plan. Following are results of the most recent survey (2017-2018).

CONSTITUENT GROUPS INCLUDED IN SURVEY

- Local Education Agencies (LEA) Superintendents
- LEA Business Administrators
- LEA Directors of Special Services
- LEA Child Study Team Case Managers
- ESCNJ Administrators
- ESCNJ Faculty & Therapists
- ESCNJ Instructional Aides
- ESCNJ Parents
- ESCNJ Students

SUPERINTENDENTS, DIRECTORS, BA'S

(23 Participants from 17 LEA's)

- Overall ESCNJ satisfaction rate: 100%
 - Directors 4.7 on scale of 1-5
 - Supts/BAs 4.8 on scale of 1-5
- School program satisfaction rate: 99%
 - Ranged from 4.3 to 5 on scale of 1-5
 - ALC, BBLC, CLL, PRDS highest rated schools
 - NuView Academy Clinical Services Support
- Interest in provision of services through Collaborative Educational Services in the following areas:
 - Para Professionals, Board Certified Behavior Analysts (BCBA), CST Members, TODs, LDT/C, Therapists (i.e., OT, PT, SLP)
 - Post-21 Services still indicated as a need
- Vocational/CBI:
 - Mostly indicated for students ages 17-21
 - Still need support for students ages 13-16
- Building LEA capacity to return and serve students in the following Special Education categories:

- Autism
- Multiple Disabilities/Cognitive Impairment
- At-Risk
- Emotional Disability

LEA CST

(31 Participants from 10 LEA's)

- ESCNJ school program satisfaction ranged from 3.9 to 5 on scale of 1-5
- Typical Out-of-District Placement Categories:
 - Autism, Behavioral and Multiple Disabilities
- Most needed ESCNJ services:
 - Home Instruction, Independent Evaluations, Professional Development, Placement, Teacher of Deaf, BCBA, CBI
- Professional Development Academy Topics of Interest:
 - CBI
 - Differentiation of Instruction
 - Functional Behavior Assessment (FBA) Development
 - Augmentative/Alternative Communication
 - IEP Goals & Objectives Development
 - Transition for Students Ages 18-21
 - Travel Training (e.g., NJ Transit, Access Link, Pedestrian Skills, etc.)

ESCNJ ADMINISTRATORS

(100% Participation)

- 92% Satisfaction with teachers and 84% Satisfaction related services staff
- 84% Satisfied with their school's climate & culture
- 69% Satisfaction with clerical support
- 100% Satisfaction with Stronge Evaluation System
- Suggested PD Topics – Picture Exchange Communication system, BCBA Course Seq., Family Life Ed for Students with Severe Disabilities, Adult Day Rehab Resources

Survey Results Overview (2017-2018)

ESCNJ FACULTY

(130 Participants for a 53% response rate)

- 77% Agree they receive clear direction & support from administrators
- 71% Agree with the format & items of the Stronge Evaluation System (with 26% neutral)
- 60% Agree they have needed instructional equipment and supplies (67% agree on technology)
- 75% Understand curricula alignment with NJSLs
- 77% Believe their school has a positive climate & culture

ESCNJ PARENTS

(93 Participants overall with 5 of 6 school programs represented)

- 100% Satisfaction with school program child attends (4.77 on scale of 1-5)
- 100% Satisfaction with the opportunity to participate in planning for child
- 100% Satisfaction with faculty interest in child's progress
- Positives: CBI, nurturing environment, responsiveness and patience of faculty

ESCNJ STUDENTS

(37 Participants [NuView & NuView Annex] for a 60% response rate)

- 73% Satisfied with the concern for their learning shown by their teachers
- 65% Satisfied with respect shown by faculty
- 63% Satisfied with Chromebooks
- 40% Satisfied with school program
- Newsela – 3.03, IXL – 3.06, BrainPop – 3.37, Schoology LMS – 3.22 (Scale 1-5)
- Positives: Counselors, Cooking, Student Council

KEY TAKEAWAY ITEMS

- Overall high satisfaction rates with ESCNJ programs & services
- Provision of Post-21/Adult Services
- CBI for both 13-16 and 17-21 year old students
- Continue to offer high quality professional development in the areas of:
 - Crisis Prevention
 - FBA Development
 - Response to Intervention (RTI)
 - Behavioral Support
 - Differentiation of Instruction
 - iPad Apps
 - ABA Training for Faculty, Paraprofessionals, and BCBAs
 - Assistive/Augmentative Technology
- Continuation of Collaborative Educational Services consultation model to include:
 - Building LEA's capacity to return & serve low incidence disability populations:
 - Autism
 - MD
 - ED, including At-Risk populations
 - Provision of BCBA services
 - Provision of CST, OT, PT, SLP, LDT/C

NEXT STEPS

- Present survey data to ESCNJ administrators & constituent groups
- Conduct an in-depth analysis of survey data and adjust ESCNJ programs accordingly
- Use take away items and survey data to inform the development & expansion of ESCNJ programs and creation of the 2018-2023 Strategic Plan



Preparing Students for Independent Living 2018-2023

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ESCNI'S 2018-2023 GOALS

GOAL #1

Continue to use the annual survey feedback from school districts, charter schools, and non-public schools to expand, enhance, and facilitate Collaborative Educational Services (CES) and individual school programs.

Objective

Expand, enhance, and facilitate Collaborative Educational Services (CES):

- Child Study Team (CST) services including independent evaluations and case management within school districts and charter schools
- Therapeutic services in Speech Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, crisis counseling, including crisis prevention intervention, within school districts
- BCBA services including consultation within local districts, charter schools, and home instruction
- Home instruction services
- Consultation model to develop services and build capacity to serve returning students in high need categories of Autism, MD, Cognitively Impaired, and ED, including the At-Risk populations
- Para-professionals and Teacher of the Deaf services
- Chapters 192/193 and Non-Public IDEA services, including nursing services and Title I services
- Extended school year programs and services
- ESCNJ quality school programs that serve in high need special education categories including Autism, MD, Cognitively Impaired, and ED

GOAL #2

Continue to provide support services and resources to students, parents/guardians, and staff members to help combat substance abuse inside and outside the school community.

Objective

Maintain, expand, and research substance abuse interventions programs:

- Provide support for students with clinical counseling and program guidance through the use of clinical staff from Rutgers University Behavioral Health Care
- Continue to respond to requests from school districts for assistance and interventions for students in a timely and effective manner
- Continue to provide the needed support and substance abuse intervention programs for students who attend the NuView Academies, and other Commission programs
- Provide information and assistance to parents/guardians and siblings that are incorporated in program planning for the wellness of the family
- Continue to assist all staff with the identification of students needing support that encompass interventions and professional development to help target the reduction of substance abuse issues
- Continue to use the collaborative model with school districts to share best practices concerning substance abuse treatment programs
- Continue to research and pursue relevant State (DOE) and local substance abuse grant opportunities to provide additional resources and program support to serve students and families



Advances in Technology Expands Opportunities for Nonverbal Students – A CLL staff member demonstrates how nonverbal students now have more ways to express their needs, interact with others, and participate in classroom instruction and school activities as a result of electronic speech generating devices.

GOAL #3

Continue to address the need for additional facility space and funding sources to implement Post-21 programs.

Objective

Develop opportunities to support and serve Post-21 adults after graduating from Commission programs:

- Convene and expand membership in the Post-21 Committee to provide for a diversified group of individuals from different backgrounds and occupations
- Continue to research and conduct site visitations of different types of programs and services for Post-21 adults
- Convene the Commission Foundation and plan for fundraising projects to support the Post-21 program

- Continue to research available space opportunities at the Commission and other county locations to expand the Post-21 program
- Conduct an annual needs assessment for Post-21 adults graduating from Commission programs to address the needs and level of functional behavioral supports needed for program planning and expansion



Collaboration at Nuview Academy – Secondary students working with primary students on class projects helps promote positive behavior and leadership.

GOAL #4

Continue to research and expand the use of technology to support Commission schools and the Professional Development Academy.

Objective

Review and analyze survey results and technology advances to upgrade technology throughout the Commission:

- Continue to explore and expand user friendly means for online registration for Commission services and in-service professional development
- Continue to use survey feedback and advances with assistive technology to support

Commission programs and professional development for staff

- Continue to expand the use of assistive technology to support student learning
- Continue to work with the NJDOE Office of School Preparedness & Emergency Planning to review new technology to enhance the overall school security in all Commission schools
- Continue to research new security methods to increase communication with local police, first responders and staff within the schools
- Continue to review changes to the Commission website that provide easy to understand information and an intuitive design that facilitates user friendly use for all available service information

GOAL #5

Expand and align curriculum and instructional programs in areas of state standards, post-secondary student needs, CBI, student transition services, reading and literacy programs.

Objective

Maintain and establish programs that support student achievement and transition services:

- Continue to use the Commission's Curriculum Committee to review and make recommendations to align all curriculum programs with state standards
- Continue to use the Commission's Committee to Evaluate Vocational Programs to expand CBI and transition planning within Commission programs
- Continue to address new opportunities for students to acquire communication and social skills to support transition outcomes and job opportunities
- Continue to review, implement, and improve reading and literacy skills for all students through the use of various intervention models

- Continue to enhance the Commission's transition programs to return students to their local districts when appropriate
- Continue to assess student outcomes through teacher observations and benchmark/formative assessments
- Continue the expanded use of tablet devices for language development, communication skills, and behavioral interventions
- Continue to use instructional technology to engage students to increase their time on task and enable teachers to differentiate instruction
- Continue to expand CBI and vocational opportunities throughout Commission school programs for students ages 13-16 and ages 17-21



BBLC Preschoolers 'Having Fun' – BBLC Preschoolers seemed to get the message during the school's "Having Fun Versus Making Fun" activities.

GOAL #6

Continue to research and increase security within all Commission schools.

Objective

Expand the use of technology and review communications with local and county law enforcement to protect the Commission schools and enhance security:

- Continue to assess the need for additional cameras in Commission schools to raise the level of awareness and security

- Plan for an annual security drill with local police in each Commission school to determine additional safeguards and heightened security
- Plan for a School Safety Committee meeting with local police following the annually planned security drill to debrief and review all school security procedures
- Initiate a security audit with the NJDOE Office of School Preparedness and Emergency Planning to provide feedback to the Commission's school leaders
- Hold quarterly School Safety Committee meetings to determine school needs to enhance safety and security in Commission schools
- Continue to research the advanced use of technology to enable school staff and administration to communicate more effectively in a crisis situation



Sayreville Mayor Visits CLL On Earth Day – Sayreville Mayor Kennedy O'Brien celebrated Earth Day at the CLL, and received a plant from a student grown in the school's greenhouse.

GOAL #7

Expand and enhance professional development opportunities at the Professional Development Academy for Commission schools and districts statewide.

Objective

Survey and review the need assessments of constituents to develop and guide program offerings for all staff in required and requested areas:

- Continue to provide professional development in the use of the NJ Student Learning Standards and NJDOE Model Curriculum
- Continue to provide professional development to support the development and use of formative/benchmark assessments
- Provide professional development to support and enhance the use of technology in the classroom including but not limited to iPads, tablets, Chromebooks, laptops, assistive devices, web-based applications, etc.
- Continue to provide professional development for multi-sensory reading and literacy interventions



Post-Secondary Opportunities – A workshop focused on community colleges, vocational and trade schools was well attended by educators statewide so participants remain current on various options when advising students with special needs.

- Continue to offer ABA training for faculty, paraprofessionals, and BCBA staff
- Continue to expand course offerings to include crisis prevention, functional behavioral assessment, differentiation of instruction, and classroom behavioral supports
- Expand the delivery of professional development to include traditional models, in-district delivery, and online/webinar offerings

GOAL #8

Enhance and expand products and services for members of the Commission's Co-op Pricing System.



Free Vendor Expo - School district, state agency, and municipal officials responsible for major purchases can test equipment, talk with vendors and earn Continuing Education Credits at the annual Vendor Expo held for Co-op Pricing System members. With approximately 1,200 members, ESCNJ's Co-op Pricing System is the largest state approved cooperative, saving millions of taxpayer dollars annually on purchases ranging from grounds and maintenance equipment, furniture, technology products, security cameras, card access systems, carpet and flooring, electricity, natural gas and more.

Objective

Increase membership to all governmental agencies, school districts, and charter schools throughout the state:

- Continue to survey members to determine needs, new services, and bidding priorities
- Continue to expand the Co-op Pricing System working with local governmental services
- Continue to expand the role of the Co-op Pricing System Advisory Committee to provide better services and expand membership ■



Preparing Students for Independent Living 2018-2023

*Celebrating 40
Years of
Educational
Excellence*

PREPARING STUDENTS FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING (2018-2023)

The new 50,000 square foot addition is the result of ESCNJ's effort to expand its support to ensure a successful transition to independent living through our Community-based Instruction efforts.

The Vocational training opportunities, as a result of the ESCNJ's relationships with established businesses and community agencies, and accessing public transportation are significant parts of CBI.

Supervised by state endorsed Structured Learning Experience(s) (SLE) faculty, CBI students also participate in activities focused on reinforcing independent living skills including meal preparation, house cleaning, minor repair work, and safe use of household equipment and appliances.

Social skill building, including reinforcing appropriate public behavior, establishing conflict resolution skills and realistic goal setting are also included. Students are engaged in technology infused, functional academic work each day as well.

Public Transportation Use

With the assistance from Rutgers New Jersey Travel Independence Program (NJ TIP), students gain competence in understanding schedules, purchasing tickets, traveling to different locations, and using other public transportation options. Greater awareness of safe practices when crossing streets, understanding traffic signals, interpreting signage accurately, and recognizing potentially unsafe situations are also included.

Employment Training

A core feature of the CBI is the many individual and group job-sampling opportunities available. The ESCNJ has established job-sampling partnerships with numerous employers ranging from Rutgers University, ShopRite, Walgreens, and Burger King, to International American Supermarkets, Elijah's Promise, Robert Wood Johnson Hospital, and T.J. Maxx. Exposure to diverse employment opportunities help students identify interests and build vocational competence in conjunction with instructional staff monitoring and assessing student skill levels. ■

Preparing Students For Independent Living 2018-2023

The ESCNJ is committed to providing services that support students in their effort to live independently to the greatest extent possible. Services include job sampling opportunities, use of public transportation, meal preparation, house cleaning, safe use of household equipment, social skill building, and transition support for parents.

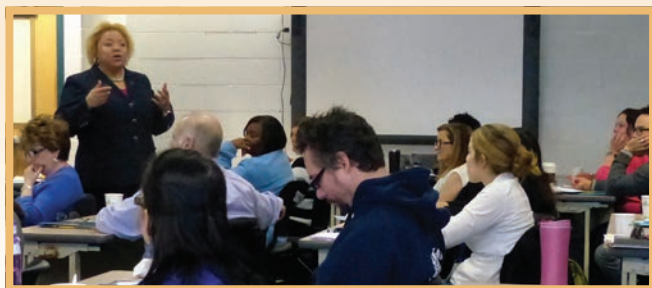
Planning Ahead – A Middlesex County College ▶ admissions counselor facilitated a discussion with students about their goals and the schools' support services for students with special needs.



Parents Attend Student Transition Fair – Approximately 20 organizations shared materials and resource information with parents about independent living options for students upon graduation at the Transition Fair.



Pathways to Adult Living (PAL) – PAL is a bridge program to independent living for 18-21 year old students. Located at 95 Main St in the heart of the Sayreville business district, PAL offers job sampling, community education, and functional living skill opportunities for participants.



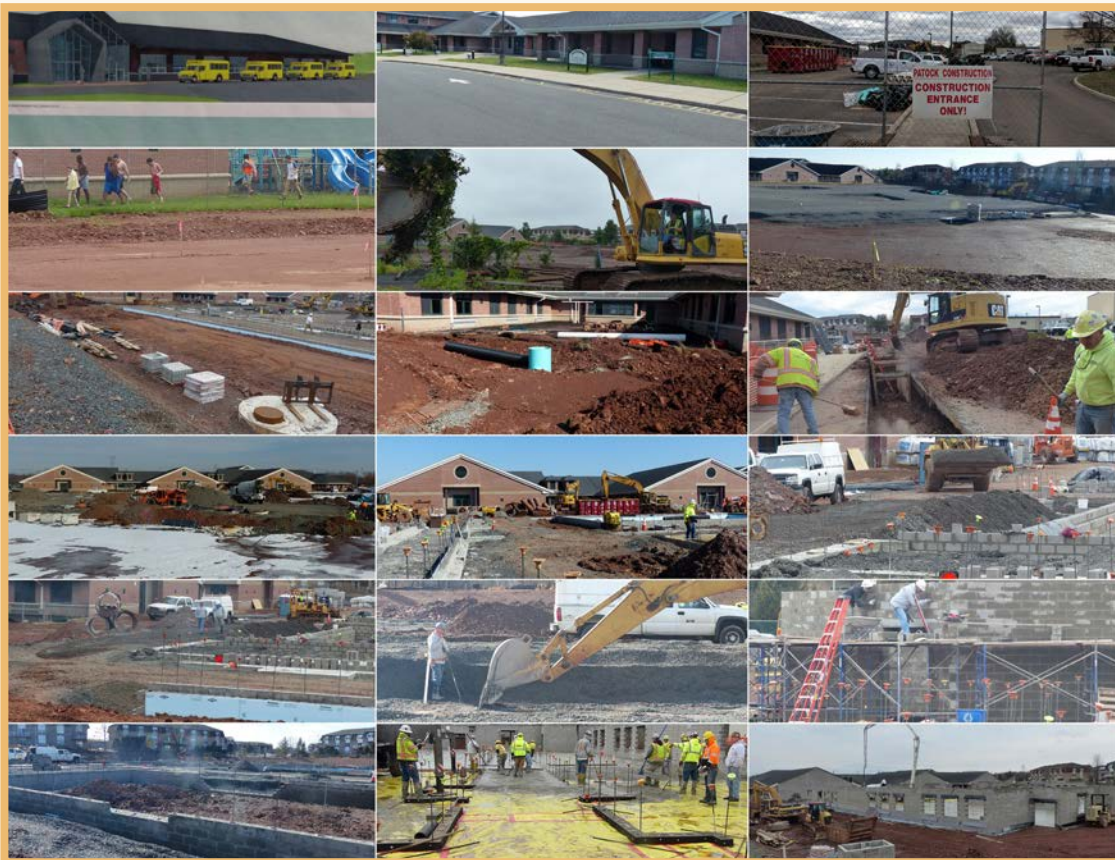
ESCNJ Advisory Council Workshop – A "Best Practices in Transition Planning For Students With Disabilities" workshop attracted educators from across the state.



CBI – Students participate in CBI programs in preparation for life after graduation. A research-based instructional method, students learn life skills through job sampling with community employers, engaging in community activities, shopping and meal preparation, in addition to learning pedestrian and transit safety skills.

PREPARING STUDENTS FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING (2018-2023)

The majority of the 50,000 square foot addition on the Piscataway Campus is designed to further prepare students for independent living. The facility will be open to students beginning July 1, 2019. The photo collage below reflects the tremendous progress since July 2017.



New Facility Highlights

- Classrooms to accommodate more Community-based Instruction (CBI) students in job searching, public transportation use, and life skills training like appropriate public behavior, and conflict resolution.
- Spacious rooms for hands on Culinary, Horticultural and Agricultural experiences.
- A full size gymnasium.
- Two contemporary meeting rooms that can accommodate 300 people, and are available for community and corporate use.

PREPARING STUDENTS FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING (2018-2023)



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

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ESC NJ'S VENDOR EXPO



Thanks To Vendor Expo Participants – Vendor Expo participants learned more about saving tax dollars when making purchases through the 1,200 member ESCNJ Co-op Pricing System.