

Brennen School Delaware Autism Program

Christina School District

Board of Education

November 18, 2008

Program Mission

Brennen School strives to provide the best educational services in the nation for students with autism and their families.

Who do we serve?

- Students with the educational classification of autism, ages birth to 21
- Current enrollment: 362 students

Districts Served

- Appoquinimink
- Christina
- Colonial
- Red Clay
- Brandywine (birth – 11 in BSD)

Staffing

- Teachers 1 – 4 ratio
- Paraprofessionals 1 – 4 ratio
- Speech Pathologists 1 – 12 ratio
- Psychologist 1 – 24 ratio
- Residential Advisors 1 – 4 ratio

Numbers of Students by Cluster and Site

<u>Cluster</u>	<u>On-Site</u>	<u>Off-Site</u>
Young (0-6)	47	26
Middle (7-13)	56	74
Older (14-21)	35	123

Sites by Age Cluster

Young Cluster

Brennen School

Maclary Elementary

Newark Methodist Preschool

Newark Wesleyan Methodist Preschool

Middle Cluster

Brennen School

Downes Elementary

Maclary Elementary

Marshall Elementary

McVey Elementary

Stubbs Elementary

Wilson Elementary

Older Cluster

Brennen School

Bayard Middle School

Gauger-Cobbs Middle School

Christiana High School

Glasgow High School

Newark High School

University of Delaware (CBEA)

Types of Environments and Settings

Brennen School, through our district, is able to provide a full continuum of educational settings ranging from a separate school through full inclusion and everything in-between.

Brennen

- Youngest students (more 2s and 3s)
- Students with most intense programming needs (any age)
- Students who need access to specific environmental features not available in general ed settings (any age)

EARLY CHILDHOOD (3-5)

- Community/District Preschool
 - Behavior and other support can be effectively managed away from the center-based program
 - Access to typical peers as determined by the IEP Team

ELEMENTARY K-5 MODELS

- Brennen Self-Contained
- Self-Contained Classroom in a General Education Building
 - Self-contained classroom of peers with autism
 - Access to typical peers as determined by the IEP Team
 - Delaware Alternate Portfolio Assessment (DAPA)

ELEMENTARY K-5 MODELS

- Specialized Support
 - Integrated model
 - Access to core academic subjects
(Delaware Recommended Curriculum)
 - Supports provided by DAP staff
 - DSTP

ELEMENTARY K-5 MODELS

- Full Inclusion
 - Autism program provides direct staffing support
 - Shared responsibility for all students
 - DSTP

Middle and High Schools

- Brennen School self-contained
- Self contained classes in middle and high schools
- Specialized support classes
- Full inclusion

■ Full Inclusion

- Access to core content classes
- Leads to diploma
- DSTP
- Teaming relationships with building staff to support all students

What sets us apart?

- Unique and valued situation and relationship with the Christina School District
- No peer in the nation and is unique to CSD
- Nationally recognized

Student Support Design

- 1 Teacher of the Autistic Child and
- 1 or more Paraprofessionals
 - For every 4 to 7 students!

Collaborative Team

- Identified for each student
 - Parents
 - Autism Teacher
 - Paraprofessional
 - Speech and Language Pathologist
 - School Psychologist or Behavior Analyst
 - Other related service staff

Other Related Services/Supports

As determined by IEP Team.....

- PE and Adaptive PE
- Music Therapy
- Art
- Vocational Specialists and Training
- Community Training
- Occupational Therapy
- Physical Therapy
- Residential Services
- Parent Training
- Community and recreational access

Educational Program

- Evidence-based best practices from the field of Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA)
- Classroom teams meet weekly

Educational Program

- Visual Supports
 - communication systems
 - picture schedules
- assistive technology
- non-verbal cuing or prompting strategies

Picture Exchange Communication System (PECS)

- PECS was developed here at Brennen
 - late '80s and early '90s
 - direct participation of staff, some of whom continue with Brennen.
- Recognized as a leading strategy for developing language

**What are the
qualifications and training
of program staff?**

- Teacher of the Autistic Child certification
 - Requires an additional 15 graduate credits
- Also certified in Special Education

Professional Development

- Instructional Coaches
 - to provide ongoing support to novice teachers and
 - assist in planning and implementing ongoing staff development for all professional and paraprofessional staff

Entitlements

- Services are provided on a 12 month calendar
- Respite

Brennen School/The Delaware Autism
Program is celebrating our 30th
anniversary!

Kudos to the CSD BOE!

We couldn't do this without you! Thank you for your ongoing support of this very special program.