NJ JOINT COUNCIL of County Special Services School Districts
Empowering Students for Success

IMPACT SUMMARY: MAXIMIZING POST-SCHOOL OUTCOMES FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES GRANT



Over two years, the state dedicated **$9.6 MILLION** in funding to invest in community-based transition programming for students ages 18-21 with disabilities.

330+ ADDITIONAL STUDENTS BENEFITTED

170+ NEW OR ENHANCED COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Grant recipients included **County Special Services School Districts in these seven counties:** Atlantic County • Bergen County • Burlington County • Cape May County • Gloucester County • Mercer County • Salem County

OPPORTUNITIES UNLOCKED

Grant funding helped students with disabilities maximize real-world learning opportunities. With adequate funding, recipients:

ADDED TRANSPORTATION for students to work and learn in the community

EXTENDED TRANSITION PROGRAMMING to serve students with more complex needs

UPDATED IN-SCHOOL TECHNOLOGY to replicate systems students will use in the real world

HIRED STAFF to support students at work and internship sites, including job coaches and nurses for students with medical needs, as well as transition coordinators to help students and families navigate next steps

MAXIMIZED USE OF IN-SCHOOL SPACES AND RESOURCES to broaden opportunities for students to prepare for jobs, especially in culinary and hospitality

FORMED OR STRENGTHENED PARTNERSHIPS with community organizations and area employers

STUDENTS BENEFITTED FROM ON-THE-JOB LEARNING AT:

Big-name retailers such as Advance Auto Parts, CVS, Michaels, and Old Navy

County animal shelters, libraries, and law and health departments

Hospital systems, institutions of higher education, and senior living communities

*Districts also established partnerships to support students' transition, including with local Chambers of Commerce and Rutgers.



NOVEL PROGRAMS LAUNCHED

Each recipient developed highly customized programs and initiatives

ATLANTIC COUNTY formed a Community Connections group with alumni and their families

BURLINGTON COUNTY established the Taste of Transitions Culinary Program and Campus Cafe, alongside a partnership operating the Community Blend Cafe at the Burlington County Library

CAPE MAY COUNTY created the "Cape Cart" to get students into the community to sell items and interact with customers

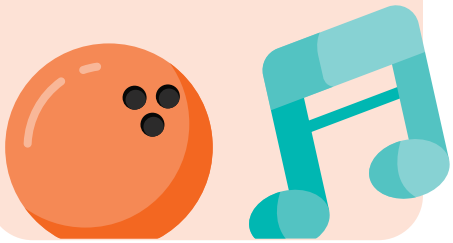
GLOUCESTER COUNTY developed a Community Garden initiative with local partners

SALEM COUNTY collaborated with Salem Community College to expand opportunities for students to earn college credits



Students practiced social skills with fun and engaging community outings, including:

Bowling • Martial arts • YMCA • Community gardens • Spectrum Sports for health and wellness programming • Bluelight Recording Studios for exploration of music and recording



BUILDING FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

Building sustainable networks, vocational pathways, and localized support systems requires a substantial investment of both time and resources.

The initial grant funding has paid off in the individual success stories, and sustained funding would maintain and continue building upon the positive outcomes for students with disabilities.