

Classroom Curriculum

Throughout the school year, students participate in a functional academic curriculum that stresses employability and independent living skills. Major classroom focus areas include:

- Working responsibly
- Communicating effectively
- Solving problems and developing critical thinking skills
- Planning and managing a career
- Applying technology
- Developing self-advocacy skills

Work Rotations

Students participate in unpaid internships/rotations that begin in the second month of the program. Students will experience two to three rotations of approximately 8 weeks each. Assignments will be based on students' previous work experience, interests, and staff assessments. Project SEARCH staff and LGH department staff collaborate to train and provide support. Students gain independence, communication and problem-solving skills, and job-specific skills while being immersed in the work setting.

Contact Information

Lancaster-Lebanon IU13
Gina Guatta, Supervisor
717-947-1720
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Acknowledgements & Partnerships

The staff and students of Project SEARCH wish to extend their appreciation to the school districts in Lancaster County, Lancaster-Lebanon IU13, Lancaster General Health, Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, Office of Behavioral Health/Developmental Services, and student family members for their ongoing support and encouragement.

IU13 Board of School Directors

Dr. Brian Barnhart, Executive Director

Sherry Zubeck, Director of Early Childhood and Special Education Services

Lisa Figurelle, Program Director

Gina Guatta, Supervisor



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Project SEARCH Lancaster



Serving School-Age Learners

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Project SEARCH Lancaster

Project SEARCH focuses on helping young adults with mild to moderate disabilities make a successful transition from school to productive adult life. This unique one-year work immersion program serves students with disabilities who are in their last year of high school.

With the goal of competitive employment, each student receives classroom instruction and hands-on experience through internships in as many as three departments within Lancaster General Health (LGH). Through their work immersion experiences, students also develop employability, social, and independent living skills.

Project SEARCH Team:

- Full-time Teacher
- 2 Job Trainers
- Supervisor
- School Psychologist
- School Social Worker
- Special Education Consultant
- LGH Volunteer Services –Hospital Liaison
- LGH Supervisor
- LGH Mentor
- Office of Vocational Rehabilitation
- Lancaster County Behavioral Health and Developmental Services

Program Eligibility

In order to be considered for Project SEARCH, candidates must:

- Have completed the high school credits necessary for graduation.
- Meet eligibility requirements for PA Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) and have a cognitive disability.
- Have independent personal hygiene and grooming skills.
- Have independent daily living skills.
- Have access to independent transportation.
- Maintain appropriate behavior and social skills in the workplace.
- Be able to communicate effectively.
- Be able to pass drug and alcohol screen and criminal background check, have current immunizations, and meet other LGH requirements.

If you have any questions regarding program eligibility please contact Gina Guatta at 717-947-1720.



Application Process

Students are referred to the program through their school district and then apply at the end of the first semester for the following school year. The student and family must complete and submit the application by a predetermined deadline. Space is limited.

The Project SEARCH Selection Committee carries out the selection process. The committee will review all applications and will schedule an interview with each student.

Acceptance letters will be sent to those students who have been selected, and IEP meetings will be scheduled.

To Apply

Contact your school district Special Education Administrator

Mission Statement

Project SEARCH provides employment and education opportunities for individuals with mild to moderate disabilities. The program is dedicated to workforce development that benefits the individual, community, and workplace.

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