



PREPARING MARYLAND STUDENTS

TO THRIVE

Thousands of Maryland students have special needs and require extra services and attention not always available in the public schools. Some students have profound physical or emotional disabilities. Others have autism spectrum disorders, behavioral problems or learning issues.



Throughout the year, those students and their families rely on the state's nonpublic special education facilities to provide critically needed educational and support services.

These special education schools, located across the state, have the experience and expertise to provide high-quality services that are customized to meet each student's needs. Their well-trained staffs create a rigorous therapeutic learning environment with a singular focus on each child, helping

them advance and grow. In some cases, a student may require one-to-one attention or intensive psychological counseling. Others require ongoing therapy and physical assistance. And social workers at the schools often step in to partner with families to overcome problems that affect a child's progress in school. Families are engaged and considered an integral part of the child's education and services in every nonpublic special education facility.

A nonpublic school is the appropriate choice for many Maryland students who are unable to have their needs met in the public schools. These schools, which are members of the Maryland Association of Nonpublic Special Education Facilities (MANSEF), serve students ages 2 to 21 who require the most intensive services for a range of disabilities including:

- **Emotional disabilities**
- **Autism**
- **Learning disabilities**
- **Intellectual disabilities**
- **Multiple disabilities**

Facts about Maryland's Nonpublic Special Education Schools

- 97 schools in 15 counties and Baltimore City
- More than 3,000 Maryland students served
- Average class size of nine students per one teacher and one aide – as mandated by Maryland regulations
- More than 2,500 Marylanders employed
- Nonpublic facilities often operate year-round

"The school has been a saving grace for our family. My son has a disability that requires specialized instruction, low teacher-to-student ratios and a level of expertise and care that could not be met in our local school system. We are grateful to have an appropriate option to educate him."

–Yetta Myrick, Parent of a Student at a MANSEF school

Partnering with the Public Schools to Provide Essential Services to Maryland Children and Families

The nonpublic special education facilities are key partners with the state's 24 local school systems, providing important educational services to thousands of students who need extra support. These nonpublic schools serve as essential components of the educational offerings required by federal and state law and are key contributors to Maryland's highly ranked educational system.

Like public schools, the nonpublic facilities are highly regulated by the state of Maryland. State policies set standards for tuition rates, class size and other aspects of educational services. And like the public

schools, the nonpublic facilities are held accountable for the quality of services they provide. The nonpublic schools' costs reflect a more intensive level of staff support and non-classroom services and are in line with the costs incurred within the public schools.

A key goal of the nonpublic schools is to prepare students to be able to return successfully to the public schools or to lead productive adult lives. Each year, many students do return to the public schools able to successfully further their education.

PREPARING STUDENTS FOR SUCCESS

Maryland's nonpublic special education facilities

are preparing students with disabilities to succeed in school and develop emotionally, equipping them for positive outcomes. MANSEF schools meet our students where they are and help them to achieve to the best of their abilities.

A recent study followed students for two years after graduation and found that MANSEF students had higher rates of post-secondary education, employment and living independently compared to similar students being served in public schools. Students who had attended nonpublic special education schools also had less interaction with the legal system even though their disabilities were more profound than their public school peers.

Source: "Post-school Outcomes of Students from MANSEF-Member Nonpublic Special Education Programs up to Two Years After High School." Deborah Carran, Ph.D., Johns Hopkins University

The study found:

- 57 percent of MANSEF students enroll in post-secondary education as compared to 31 percent of the comparison group
- Only 16 percent of MANSEF students have had interaction with the criminal justice system as compared to 58 percent of the comparison group
- 53 percent of MANSEF youth are employed within two years of high school graduation as compared to 43 percent of the comparison group

Maryland's nonpublic schools are excelling at educating students with intensive needs and sending them out well-prepared to lead productive lives.



"Since our daughter started attending the school she has grown in so many ways. Her academics have greatly improved and she has made many good friends. But the most dramatic change in her that we have seen has been in her social development. The way she has been treated by everyone at the school - staff, teachers and fellow students- has played a big role in her social and emotional development."

– Tony and Barb Taylor, Parents of a Student at a MANSEF school

For more information, visit www.mansef.org or call 410-938-4413