



# NYC Department of Education Special Education District 75



## Our Mission

The mission of District 75 is to provide appropriate standards-based educational programs with related service supports to approximately 20,000 students with severe challenges, commensurate with their abilities. The district is committed to working with students and their families to afford them an opportunity to maximize their potential, become contributing members of society and develop the tools to ensure maximum personal independence and self-esteem.

District 75 provides citywide educational, vocational, and behavior support programs for students who are on the autism spectrum, severely challenged and/or multiply disabled. District 75 consists of 56 school organizations, home and hospital instruction, and vision and hearing services. Our schools and programs are located at more than 350 sites in the Bronx, Brooklyn, Manhattan, Queens, Staten Island and Syosset, New York.

District 75 collaborates with various institutions of learning and colleges to replicate best instructional practices, and offers state of the art professional development for teachers. The district supports instruction through their offices of Autism, Literacy, Mathematics, Science, Technology, Inclusion, Transition, and Positive Behavior Supports. There are extended day programs providing academic intervention strategies and extracurricular activities that provide opportunities to improve their social skills and self-esteem through art, dance, drama etc. District 75 delivers services to students in a variety of supported environments that include community-based vocational training sites, special education schools, institutional facilities, inclusive settings, community school, students' homes, high schools, hospitals, and agencies.

As mandated by the students' Individualized Educational Programs (IEP's), District 75 supports a wide range of related services that include speech, counseling, physical therapy, occupational therapy, and nursing. These services are individualized and can be delivered in a small group and/or one-to-one setting. All are geared to support student achievement both in school and in the community at large.

## Community Work-Based Learning

Work-based learning opportunities are provided to approximately 2,700 students with significant disabilities, ages 14 to 21, at over 370 community training locations throughout the five boroughs. The Job Developer at each school develops a variety of new job training sites and ensures that work class protocols are followed and that participating students receive whatever support is needed to optimize benefit from each work experience. Schools also work closely with vocational rehabilitation and adult service provider agencies to guarantee that students continue to be provided with any assistance that might be needed once they graduate from school and transition into supported or competitive employment.

The objectives of work-based learning include mastery of the actual skills needed to do a particular job successfully as well as learning the "soft" universal work readiness skills for successful employment such as following directions, communicating and getting along with fellow employees and being on time for work, which are often a more significant indicators for success.

Community training sites benefit from their participation in District 75's Community Work-Based Learning Programs in many ways. Students are always supervised and instructed by school staff. Stipends are provided for students through a variety of funding sources so that there is no cost to any participating business or organization. As a self insured entity, the New York City Department of Education covers all students under a Hold-Harmless Resolution and Authorization for Agreements to Provide Internships and Vocational Education Work Experiences Programs with Corporations, Public, Private, Profit and Non-Profit Organizations for Special Education High School Students.

Although participating businesses and organizations are under no obligation to hire any trainee, it is anticipated that many of our students will prove themselves to be reliable and capable candidates for future employment.