

CITY Connections is a community - based transition program for students ages 18-21 who require continued education in order to meet the goals defined in their Individualized Education Program (IEP). Post-secondary goals identified by the student, family, school team and community partners help design a program that can meet individual needs and help prepare students for life after graduation.

CITY Connections East, West 1, West 2, North, and Community College of Allegheny County (CCAC 1 and CCAC 2) offer an age-appropriate learning environment, in the community, where student's post-secondary transition goals drive the IEP.

Preparing students to **live, work, connect, and contribute** in the community.

The Pittsburgh Public Schools does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability or age in its programs, activities or employment and provides equal access to a variety of designated youth groups. Inquiries may be directed to Title IX Coordinator or the Section 504/ ADA Title II Coordinator at 341 S. Bellefield Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15213 or 412.529.HELP (4357).

CITY Connections Sites

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Creating Individualized
Transitions for Youth

Expect
great
things.



Dr. Wayne Walters
Superintendent

Patti Camper
Assistant Superintendent of
Special Education

What is CITY Connections?

- ⇒ Continued education in an urban, community-based environment for students ages 18-21.
- ⇒ A unique opportunity for post-high school students to access and engage in their communities.
- ⇒ An individually-designed transition program based on goals identified by the student, family, and educational staff members.
- ⇒ A community-based learning environment outside of a traditional school setting where transition goals drive the IEP.

Who is it for?

- ⇒ Students currently receiving supports through an Individualized Education Program (IEP).
- ⇒ Students between the ages of 18-21 who have completed at least four years of high school programming.
- ⇒ Students who have not met requirements for graduation and have not received a high school diploma.
- ⇒ Students for whom the IEP team supports:
 - A need for continued programming;
 - A less restrictive environment;
 - The ability to meet the measurable goals outlined in the student's IEP in order to graduate.

What services may be provided?

- ⇒ Individualized functional curricula.
- ⇒ Administration and interpretation of age-appropriate transition assessment.
- ⇒ Linkages to appropriate adult agencies.
- ⇒ Job Coaching supports, where appropriate, via the District's Employment Specialists.
- ⇒ Travel Training to include 1:1 instruction as defined in the student's IEP.
- ⇒ Pre-Employment Transition Services (PETS), based on individual needs, may include:
 - Self-Advocacy Skills Instruction
 - Independent Living Skills
 - Workplace Readiness
 - Job Exploration
 - Travel Training
 - Job Shadowing Experiences
 - Community Work Instruction
 - Work-Based Learning Experiences

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Why CITY Connections?

- ⇒ Access to real work and real life experiences.
- ⇒ Mirrors movement of same-aged peers from a traditional setting, to one in which students are immersed in the community.
- ⇒ A continuum of services and supports to prepare students for life after graduation.
- ⇒ Practice skills in a real-life setting.
- ⇒ Nationally recognized transition program with over 20 years history of supporting young adults with disabilities.
- ⇒ Partnerships with local agencies such as UPMC Supported Employment, Life'sWork, and PA Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, can provide additional layer of support.
- ⇒ Partnerships with local businesses such as Manchester Craftsman's Guild, Tickets for Kids Charity, and Animal Friends may provide opportunities for work-based learning and volunteer experiences.

Apartment vs. College Site

Students at **apartment sites** follow daily schedules that reflect opportunities for work-based learning experiences, vocational training, daily living skills, community access, and recreation & leisure activities.

Students at **college sites** follow daily schedules that reflect upon the opportunity for work-based learning experiences, post-secondary education/training, and community access. Students can access a variety of campus activities and events or explore desired clubs and organizations. Students may also have the opportunity to explore dual enrollment aligned with their transition goals and connect to post-secondary funding options.