

Program Highlights

- Individualized academic and behavioral programs
- Functional and experiential curriculum based upon the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks
- Individualized and small group instruction
- Vocational staff, counselors and teachers work collaboratively to provide therapeutic and case management support to students and their families
- Positive behavior support plans
- Integrated Related Service Approach to enhance student learning
- Social skills groups that focus on life skills development
- Opportunities for students to learn and practice job skills
- Extended School Year Program option

Referral Criteria

- Students must be ages 14-18 and be referred by their sending district
- Students must have a current Individualized Education Program (IEP)
- Students with intellectual impairments and complex language and learning difficulties
- Requires moderate to significant modifications to the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks to make effective academic progress

ACCEPT, founded in 1974 and headquartered in Natick, Massachusetts, is an education collaborative serving 16 school districts in Boston's MetroWest area. ACCEPT provides a wide range of innovative, high quality regional programs and services, including special education student programs, transportation, technology, home-based services, Medicaid reimbursement, behavioral consultation and professional development.

ACCEPT uses the collective power and resources of member school districts to provide exceptional programs and services that maximize the potential of students, their families, educators and communities.

ACCEPT's special education teachers, therapists and professionals are experienced, well trained and licensed.

Member School Districts are: Ashland, Dover, Dover/Sherborn, Framingham, Franklin, Holliston, Hopkinton, Medfield, Medway, Millis, Natick, Needham, Sherborn, South Middlesex Regional Technical, Sudbury and Wellesley.

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ACCESS APP

At Medfield High School
for Students Grades 9 – 12



Program Overview

ACCESS APP is a substantially separate program located at Medfield High School for students with intellectual impairments and complex language and learning difficulties. A functional academic curriculum, accompanied by vocational experiences, supports development of the social, academic and vocational skills students need to transition successfully into the community.



ACCESS APP's overarching goal is for students to achieve independent functioning in the community while developing a foundation of more advanced vocational and social skills.

The success-oriented, non-competitive, individualized nature of the program helps students increase self-awareness and willingness to take risks in the learning environment. Inclusion opportunities are available to students. ACCESS APP staff is committed to developing student competence and confidence. A strong home-school relationship, through ongoing communication and collaboration, is a critical and essential part of the student's success.

ACCEPT Guiding Principles

- Respect for diversity and human differences
- Best practices
- Continuous improvement
- Open and honest communication
- Integrity

Educational Services

ACCESS APP provides a state-of-the-art, rigorous and engaging education program. The academic program is designed to meet the unique needs of students and offers highly specialized individual and small group instruction, social skills groups and behavior management. Services such as speech and language therapy, occupational therapy, physical therapy, assistive technology and augmentative communication are provided if specified in the student's Individualized Education Program (IEP).

ACCESS APP's highly trained, experienced and licensed special education teachers, therapists and other professionals work with students to build on their strengths and help manage their challenges. Classroom teachers use 21st century research-based instruction and technology to maximize student achievement, independence and participation in the school community.

Vocational Services

Vocational services help students explore, choose and prepare for transition to adulthood. Based on a series of hands-on activities and informal and standardized assessments that identify individual strengths in all domains and develop goals based on these strengths, the vocational rehabilitation counselor will make recommendations and help prepare students for appropriate next steps. Using a structured and systematic approach, students are provided opportunities to explore a variety of educational and occupational opportunities. Students learn the realities of the workplace and develop technical skills and individual qualities that are required to succeed in the community.

A vocational assessment, administered by a licensed vocational rehabilitation counselor, is a comprehensive process that systemically identifies and evaluates an individual's level of functioning as it relates to vocational preparation and employment. Using standardized and non-standardized assessment tools and real and simulated work activities, the assessment provides valuable information about the individual's interests, abilities, aptitudes and skills, to identify vocational strengths, needs and career potential. Recommendations regarding supports, assistive devices and job accommodations are developed based on the assessment and take into account the individual's intellectual capacity, physical functioning, dexterity and work tolerance.

