

“ Your excellent services have been a great asset to our students with severe disabilities”

*-Diana Borges
Director of Pupil Personnel and Special Services
Steel Valley School District*

"Watson's staff is flexible and creative in finding community experiences for our students"

*-Steve Strausser
Director of Special Education
Avonworth School District*

"The consultants provided by Watson have extensive experience providing transition activities for severely handicapped students. Their expertise enabled our students to have pre-employment and educational experiences that were interesting and at the appropriate level of challenge."

*-William H. Watson
Director, Pupil Services
Shaler Area School District*



Community-Based Instruction Services

*Preparing students for life
beyond school walls*

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The Watson Institute

The Watson Institute has been a leader in providing education and rehabilitation services to children with disabilities for more than 80 years. Since David and Margaret Watson opened their summer home to girls with crippling diseases in the late 1800s, Watson has grown and evolved into one of the area's greatest resources for serving children in need.

Today, The Watson Institute specializes in working with children and youth with autism spectrum disorders, neurological impairments and serious emotional challenges.

We offer a continuum of services for children and families, and for the professionals who work with them, including:

- * Education
- * Training and Consultation
- * Diagnostic Evaluations
- * Psychological Evaluations
- * Medication Management
- * Outpatient Services
- * Support Groups
- * Summer Camp Programs
- * Respite Services
- * Wraparound Services
- * Behavior Support for Schools

Community Based Vocational Experiences

Watson staff partner with community businesses within each school district's local community and coordinate all necessary employer contract information following all Department of Labor guidelines.

Watson staff work with students to give them opportunities to engage in vocational experiences in a real-life work environment at those community business sites. They are assigned tasks and responsibilities and work along side their peers. Watson staff provide one-on-one support to students as they perform the tasks.

The exact services provided as well as frequency and duration of services are customized to the needs of individual students and the district.

Documentation Provided by District

Watson staff will work closely with District staff to select students who will benefit from the services, targeting those who are currently not receiving any form of traditional vocational training and who require staff support.

Students are required to have documented written parental permission to participate in the program.

Districts will provide a copy of their liability insurance certificate confirming that students would be covered if an accident occurred while on-site at a business.

Districts will provide all necessary transportation (van or bus tickets for PAT) for students to and from community business sites.

Documentation provided by Watson

Watson staff will take appropriate data and provide progress evaluations for each student which will be communicated to district staff on a regular basis. Reports on data collection will include:

- * Weekly email reports
- * Task Analysis
- * Performance summaries

Transition to Post-Secondary Programs

Watson staff can assist teachers and/or transition coordinators in developing appropriate post-secondary outcomes for students as well as developing transition plans. Specifically:

- 1) Watson staff can train District staff to work with students in the community by furthering their skills in the areas of job coaching, job related social skills, job development and developing employer contracts.
- 2) Watson staff can assist teachers, students and families with researching adult services by facilitating tours, providing resource information about county and state funding, and arranging for agency seminars about transition, funding and services.