Testimonials

"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

“The Watson Institute’s Community-Based Instruction Program creates a unique community learning experience for job readiness in preparing students with disabilities with the best possible varied job shadowing experiences and job placement experience/job training and coaching to become a successful and productive member of our society!”

Dr. Nanci A. Sullivan  
Director of Pupil Personnel  
South Fayette School District

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

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

About The Watson Institute

The Watson Institute, through its family of schools and services, helps children and youth with special needs to achieve their fullest potential in all aspects of their lives. Watson strives to provide programs that serve the needs of children with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), neurological impairments and serious emotional challenges.

The Watson Institute’s specialized services include:
- Behavior Support for Schools
- Education
- Training and Consultation
  *Community Based Instruction
- Diagnostic Evaluations
- Psychological Evaluations
- Medication Management
- Outpatient Services
- Support Groups
- Summer Camp Programs
- Extended School Year (ESY) Programs
- Respite Services
- Wraparound Services

For more information visit our website at www.thewatsoninstitute.org.
Community Based Instruction (CBI)
Watson Institute staff contract with local school districts to provide students with meaningful, age-appropriate community opportunities. Our staff focus on generalizing transferable skills initially taught in the in the classroom to practicing these skills in integrated "real-life" community settings. CBI activities can focus on varying skills, including: functional academics, community awareness, communication, personal management, safety, recreation/leisure, and career/vocational exploration. Watson staff individualize services to meet the needs of the partnering school district.

Community Based Vocational Experiences (CBVE)
Watson staff partner with community businesses to develop appropriate non-paid vocational experiences. These experiences afford student the opportunity to explore and assess their vocational interest, identify their strengths, needs for accommodations and support. These opportunities can lead to extended training and employment. Watson staff provide direct instruction and support to students on-site, either in 1:1 or small group pairings. Students try out a variety of tasks and work with employees at the partnering businesses.

Watson staff follow all Department of Labor guidelines for non-paid work.

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

District Collaboration
Watson staff work closely with school district staff to identify students who will benefit from the services. Participating districts must provide:
- Parent/guardian permission in writing for student to participate
- A copy of district’s certificate of liability insurance
- All necessary transportation for students to and from outings

Documentation Provided by Watson
Watson staff will take appropriate data and provide weekly email reports for each student, as well as performance summaries on experiences. Watson staff communicate with members of a student’s IEP team and share information regularly through face to face, email and phone contact.

McCarron Dial Evaluation
Watson staff are certified to administer and score the McCarron Dial Systems - Vocational Evaluation battery of tests. The McCarron Dial identifies relative strengths and needs used to estimate the appropriate program level for serving individuals in transitional planning, prevocational or vocational settings, and residential living. A computerized report is available for quantifying/analyzing data and providing recommendations for educational management, residential living, accommodations, support services and job training and job placement.

Transition Consultation
Watson staff can participate in IEP team meetings and become active participants in developing appropriate post-secondary outcomes for students. Watson staff are available to assist teachers, students and families with researching adult services by facilitating tours, providing resource information about county and state funding for adult services, arranging for agency seminars regarding transition, funding and services. Watson staff are available to provide district staff training and assistance with:

- Community Based Instruction (CBI)
- Department of Labor - Fair Labor Standards Act Guidelines
- Indicator 13 Monitoring
- Adult Services - providers, supports, funding, tour facilitation, etc.

www.thewatsoninstitute.org