

WATSON INSTITUTE SOCIAL CENTER FOR ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT (WISCA)



WISCA is a special education school designed to meet the needs of autistic students who benefit from therapeutic interventions and supports that are not typically available in a traditional school setting. Classroom composition is based on students' grades and curricular needs, as well as graduation requirements. WISCA offers a flexible model to support students in accessing a curriculum that is suited to their needs.

KEY PROGRAM BENEFITS:

Therapeutic Intervention Expertise

- Cognitive behavioral methods focusing on creative problem-solving, self-regulation, perspective-taking and developing relationships with others
- Curriculum and evidence-based practices to support social & emotional learning

Individualized Academic Planning

- Outcome-driven curricula supported by an IEP (Individualized Education Plan)
- Individualized electives available based on student interests
- General textbook curricula for 1st through 6th grade
- Online curriculum for 7th through 12th grade

Transition Services & Vocational Skill Development

- Opportunities to practice social and functional skills as students gain real-world experience
- Students aged 14 through 21 engage in transition activities to learn vocational skills and develop job readiness

Flexible Model

WISCA offers flexibility for students who would benefit from additional adaptations to help them in their academic pursuits and a functional curriculum to promote greater independence. The flexible model encompasses the following areas:

- a functional academic curriculum that teaches Activities of Daily Living (ADL), and how to use skills such as money management, reading, and comprehension in everyday life situations
- a structured teaching approach that provides predictable routines and visual supports
- academic adaptations tailored to support students in accessing the general education curriculum
- a focus on transition-related activities such as Community Based Instruction (CBI), career exploration, and job readiness
- support provided to WISCA students that is tailored to meet their individual needs

This Flexible Model can be delivered in a dedicated classroom for students with similar needs* or integrated into the student's existing classroom at WISCA.

****currently offered in Sharpsburg and Bridgeville locations***

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WISCA Locations:

Bridgeville | Sharpsburg | Sewickley

