

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

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WISCA Locations:

Bridgeville | Sharpsburg | Sewickley

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***

