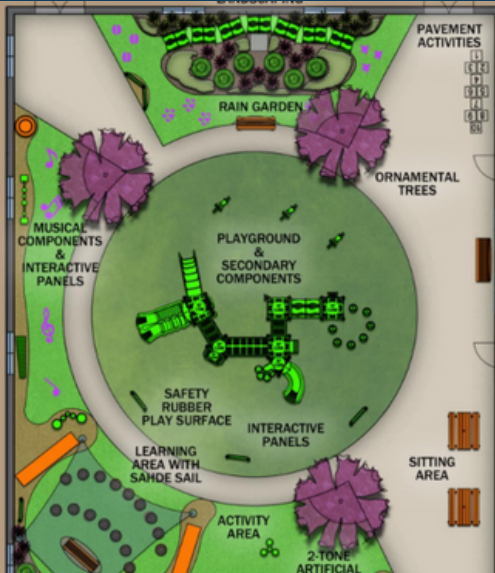


Special Education in Action

Engaging Stakeholders through Communities of Practices and Program Development



"Reimagining Inclusive Outdoor Spaces"

Have you heard that Middlesex County's Perth Amboy Public Schools have embarked on the creation of enhanced and accessible outdoor spaces for students?

With over 10,000 students, Perth Amboy has made it a priority to align with the Universal Design for Learning (UDL) framework. UDL provides a construct for teaching that brings forth equal access for all students to achieve their greatest potential. Through UDL, students have opportunities to engage in learning activities through multiple means of representation. It is the District's goal to ensure their spaces meet the physical, academic, and social-emotional needs of their students with disabilities, preschool through middle school. Consistent with the district's commitment towards UDL, they have developed themed outdoor spaces with accessible play equipment and wheelchair seating, enhanced tactile and auditory experiences, elements of nature and shade for outdoor classroom learning, and ramped playgrounds, where needed.


To enhance the interaction in these spaces, they have added communication boards at each preschool and elementary outdoor play area in English and Spanish. These boards also include a QR code so that students can scan and view from a communication device. This will enable students to move and engage around the play area. To further tie these outdoor spaces to curriculum and instruction, they have developed a curriculum companion document aligned to the N.J. Student Learning Standards that also includes modifications and accommodations to ensure access for all types of learners.


Click on the "Resource Icons" below for direct access to updates, spotlights and opportunities.


Table of Contents

Focus: Navigating the NEW Office of Special Education Website 

Assessment Accommodations: Useful Resources from the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) 

Learning Opportunities: Training Opportunities for Person-Centered Approaches in Schools and Transition (PCAST) 

Resources: NJ School Climate Improvement Survey and Online Platform 

Engagement Opportunity: Community of Practice for Teachers and Professionals of Students with Autism (CoPA) 

The Parent Corner

Statewide Special Education Parent Leadership Roundtable - Fall 2022

Look to the Future: Transition from School to Adult Life, Nov 1st

