



Garfield Park
Academy

education...
for a lifetime

Effective, evidence-based special education for students in grades K-12 with challenges:

■ learning ■ social ■ emotional ■ behavioral



Transition Checklist for Parents

Welcome to Garfield Park Academy!

We're ready to work with you to ensure the success of your child.

Your visit today is important.

Making a successful leap from high school to adult life can be difficult, particularly for students with a history of learning, social, emotional and behavioral challenges.

While most transition programs focus on job and college-readiness skills, Momentum Transition at Garfield Park Academy does that and more. One student at a time, we prepare our graduates for life.

You may be wondering...

Can this school help my child get ready for adult life?

Can this school support my child's individual needs?

Will the teachers and staff understand and value my child?

Will this school challenge my child academically?

To help you find the right program for your child, we created this guide. It can help you as you look at schools to compare them, and to help you structure your school search.

We are happy to answer your questions so that you can make the RIGHT placement decision, wherever that might be for your child.

Thank you for your visit. We hope to see you again soon.

~ Dr. Steven Morse, Superintendent
~ Kerrie Kaufman, Director

If you wonder...



Will my child be ready for adult life, jobs, college, and independence?

Look for...

- The school offers support options for college-bound students, including support on a college campus.
- The school offers work-study programs, community-based job placement, and internships for hands-on, real life learning.
- The school provides instruction in resume development, interview skills and filling out job applications.
- The school teaches independent living skills like banking, cooking, and self-care.
- The school offers transition and vocational programs that prepare students for real-life employment after graduation.



Does the school have a meaningful and flexible choice of approved transition and vocational options that will interest my child?

Look for...

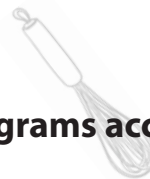
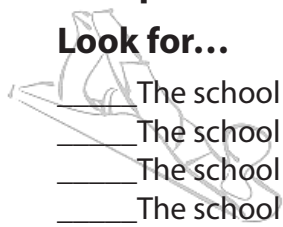
- Auto mechanics
- Culinary arts
- Cosmetology
- Horticulture
- Carpentry
- Retail trades and business marketing



Are the school's transitional and vocational programs accredited, and/or affiliated with professional organizations?

Look for...

- The school is approved by the New Jersey Department of Education (DOE).
- The school is a member of statewide associations, e.g. ASAH.
- The school is accredited by Middle States Association.
- The school is accredited for vocational training by the DOE and industry organizations such as the National Automotive Technicians Education Foundation (NATEF).
- The school uses a comprehensive evidence-based model to address social learning and behavior.
- The school is accredited by the Teaching Family Association.



Will my child also get the academic learning he/she needs to help support transition and vocational outcomes?

Look for...

- The school offers an array of academic curriculums – not just one – for students to learn reading, math, and core subjects.
- The school uses a recognized curriculum for transition teaching, like the Conover Transition Program.



- _____ The school provides effective internship and/or work opportunities with community partners, like NJCAN or CAMWERKS.
- _____ The school uses a recognized and proven curriculum that is aligned with the Common Core – including virtual learning, through programs such as DreamBox, APEX Online (a digital curriculum designed to actively engage students in learning), STEM activities, and experiments.
- _____ The school teaches reading to ALL students by using structured, multi-sensory language programs such as Wilson Reading® or other approaches based on Orton-Gillingham.
- _____ Teachers are trained in a range of instructional strategies.
- _____ Instruction is individualized.
- _____ Class sizes are small, and students can get 1:1 learning when needed.
- _____ Students have access to a certified reading specialist.
- _____ The school provides 1:1 Student/Chromebook ratio, and provides Smartboards, iPads, computers and other 21st Century instructional technologies in the classroom.
- _____ Students have science labs for hands-on learning.



Will my child get the social and emotional supports he or she needs, for example, learning how to manage his/her emotions and strengthen or improve hi/her social skills?

Look for...

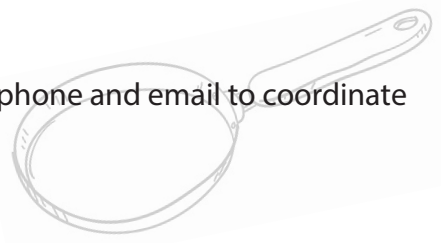
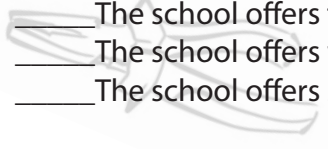
- _____ The school has a track record of success working with students who have social, emotional, behavioral, and learning challenges.
- _____ The school offers 1:1 counseling.
- _____ The school provides group counseling daily.
- _____ There is a full time social worker and social worker office for immediate counseling in every classroom.
- _____ The school offers psychiatric interventions and evaluations with licensed psychiatrists and clinical social workers.
- _____ There is immediate support for a student in crisis.
- _____ All staff are trained and credentialed to serve students with emotional disabilities in an evidence-based program.
- _____ The school offers innovative therapies, such as biofeedback and Equine Assisted Therapy® provided by credentialed professionals.
- _____ There is a schoolwide system of positive behavioral supports in place.
- _____ The school teaches mindfulness and stress management.
- _____ The school has an effective and fully integrated social skills curriculum.
- _____ Students get disability education to learn about conditions that might affect them, such as depression, anxiety, ADHD, OCD, or ODD.
- _____ The school provides home visits to assist with school phobia or anxiety.



Will my family be supported too, and viewed as equal team members?

Look for...

- _____ The school provides effective home/school communication via phone and email to coordinate student education strategies with families.
- _____ The school offers family counseling.
- _____ The school offers workshops and training for parents.
- _____ The school offers social and family events.





Garfield Park Academy is a New Jersey state approved, not-for-profit school that provides effective, evidence-based special education services for students in grades K-12 who have a history of learning, social, emotional and behavioral challenges. Garfield Park Academy is accredited by the Middle States Association and accredited by the Teaching Family Association. For more information, please contact Garfield Park Academy or visit our website.



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