



PROGRAM GUIDE

Board of Education
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[@wearethesbjc](https://twitter.com/wearethesbjc)

Dr. Michael D. Kuchar
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OUR BELIEFS

We believe our students come first and foremost. We meet the diverse needs of all students by providing individualized learning experiences focused on maximizing their independence.

We believe that every member of our team plays an important role. We are a diverse group of life-long learners who understand that professional growth and development of staff is necessary to ensure student success.

We believe in the power of our students' families and communities. We value the role that SBJC families and communities play in our students' learning experiences. The strong home/school collaboration we have developed assists with the generalization and sustainability of our students' education.

We believe that our schools are safe, supportive, and challenging learning environments. We support and encourage our students to take calculated risks, seek challenges, and break barriers.

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The background of the page is a photograph of a group of people, likely students and teachers, in a classroom or school setting. A young girl in the foreground is wearing a colorful tie-dye shirt and a large blue bow in her hair. Other people are visible behind her, some looking towards the camera and others looking away. The lighting is bright and indoor.

WE ARE THE SBJC.

The South Bergen Jointure Commission is a school district whose classrooms are not defined by walls and whose students are not defined by their classifications.

The mission of the South Bergen Jointure Commission is to unlock the potential of every student. As a leading educational provider, we focus on the development of each students' social, emotional, and academic needs. By fostering an environment that is supportive and challenging, we empower students to maximize their independence and potential in becoming fulfilled and productive members of their community.



MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

The SBJC is governed by a Commission composed of fifteen trustees, each a member of a participating school district and appointed by their respective Boards of Education. The Commission has all the powers and authority of a Board of Education and is funded entirely by income derived from the provision of services and/or by assessments. The Jointure Commission serves as a lead agency for the purposes of creating consortiums or cooperative enterprises.

Board President	Mr. Damian Kennedy	Bogota
Board Vice President	Mr. Joseph DeCorso	Lyndhurst
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	Mr. Anthony Albro	Wood-Ridge

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MAYWOOD CAMPUS

Serving students in Pre-K through 6th Grade
404 Maywood Avenue
Maywood, NJ 07607
Lauren Rosicki, Principal
(T) 201-845-8818
(E) LRosicki@njsbjc.org

GARFIELD ANNEX

Serving students in Pre-K
241 Ray Street
Garfield, NJ 07026
Lorraine Rake, Principal
(E) LRake@njsbjc.org

LODI CAMPUS

Serving students in MS/HS and 18-21 program
123 Union Street
Lodi, NJ 07644
Ken Rota, Principal
(T) 973-249-0995
(E) KRota@njsbjc.org

Nutley
Push-In Model
4 ERI Classrooms

FELICIAN ANNEX

Serving students in Pre-K
260 South Main Street
Lodi, NJ 07644
Lorraine Rake, Principal
(E) LRake@njsbjc.org

LYNDHURST ANNEX

Serving students in Pre-K
319 New York Avenue
Lyndhurst, NJ 07071
Lorraine Rake, Principal

MOONACHIE ANNEX

Serving students in grades K through 6th
20 W Park Street
Moonachie, NJ 07074

S. HACKENSACK ANNEX

Serving students in grades K through 6th
1 Dyer Avenue
South Hackensack, NJ 07606

Carlstadt
Push-In Model
1 Pre-K Classroom



SPECIAL EDUCATION CLASSROOMS

The South Bergen Jointure Commission provides special education classes for children of varying classifications, including Autism, Multiply Disabled, and Emotional Regulation Impairment, from Pre-K to 21 years of age. Classes are located at campuses in Maywood and Lodi, as well as at our annexes located in Moonachie, South Hackensack, Garfield, Felician University (Lodi), and Lyndhurst. The programs offered provide all of the services listed in each child's Individualized Education Plan. Our main campuses house speech therapists, occupational and physical therapists, behavior/counseling departments, and also offer music/art, physical education, and mindfulness classes. Our annexes provide opportunities for students to engage in learning experiences in a general education setting.

OUR EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

Preschoolers with Disabilities (PSD)

The philosophy in all of our PSD classrooms is students first. An SBJC PSD classroom provides a child-friendly environment where students engage in programs emphasizing intensive and early intervention.

Locations: Garfield, Carlstadt, Lyndhurst, & Felician

Emotional Regulation Impairment (ERI)

Our ERI Program philosophy aims to offer extensive support to both the child and their family, with a focus on the whole child. To achieve this objective, we implement various measures, such as a district-wide behavior system, classrooms staffed at a 2:1 ratio, positive behavior supports, reinforcement-rich environments, and the teaching and reinforcement of replacement behaviors.

Locations: Maywood, Lodi, & Nutley

Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)

Our Autism Program employs Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) as its primary approach to modify behaviors and positively impact the learning process. Each class maintains a 2:1 student-to-staff ratio. We utilize centers-based instruction to concentrate on developing academic, social-emotional, communication, and functional living skills.

Locations: Garfield, Carlstadt, Lyndhurst, Felician, Lodi, Maywood, Moonachie, & South Hackensack

Multiple Disabilities (MD)

Our Multiple Disabilities program integrates a curriculum that combines academic and functional skills, aiming to offer students specialized learning experiences that promote their independence.

Locations: Lodi & Moonachie

Students Transitioning to Adult Responsibilities (STARs)

The objective of the Students Transitioning to Adult Responsibilities Program is to facilitate a successful transition for students from high school to adulthood, empowering them to become active members of society and the workforce. The program offers our 18-21 learners opportunities to explore the local community under the guidance of their teachers, paraprofessionals, job coaches, and therapists.

Location: Lodi



ADMISSIONS

Our comprehensive admissions process ensures a thorough review of student reports to determine if SBJC is the right fit socially, emotionally, and academically for each student.

Initiating the process is easy. Child Study Team members with an interest in referring a student to SBJC will start by completing our CST Intake Request Form and submitting the form to our Admissions Department. All material will be reviewed by our Admissions Team and evaluated by the appropriate SBJC Building Principal. Upon identifying a potential placement, the SBJC Admissions Team will contact the prospective student, their parent(s)/guardian(s), and the case manager to schedule an intake visit, allowing all to explore the facilities and better understand the SBJC program. Following the intake visit, the SBJC Principal will make a determination regarding placement. The child's CST case manager will then be promptly notified of the outcome.

CONTACT US

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696 Route 46 West
Teterboro, NJ 07608
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NO BARRIERS PROGRAMMING

INCLUSION OPPORTUNITIES • COMMUNITY-BASED INSTRUCTION • LIFE SKILLS • TRANSITION TRAINING

The SBJC has conducted extensive research and implemented a novel program aimed at supporting students with IEPs in mitigating their disabilities. This initiative has led to the development of learning strategies that challenge our students to lead full and independent lives. The program has significantly increased social opportunities, reinforcing life skills and promoting independence. In collaboration with the non-profit organization No Barriers USA and its founder, Erik Weihenmayer (the first blind person to climb Mt. Everest), the SBJC has formalized a theoretical framework that engages students in exploring new activities, emphasizing that "what's within them is stronger than what's in their way." The program includes a variety of activities such as Yoga and Mindfulness for All, 3-Season High School Athletics, Bike Program, and Hiking Leadership.



NO BARRIERS

Yoga & Mindfulness For All

In reviewing district data regarding the use of crisis interventions for severe behaviors, the SBJC noticed a trend in classrooms regularly implementing mindfulness techniques like meditation and yoga: they had far less behavioral crises than classrooms that didn't use these methods. The SBJC has since hired a yoga and mindfulness teacher to work with every student in the district to promote skills of self-regulation.

Bike Program

A team of physical educators, physical/occupational therapists, and administrators designed a program that incorporated bicycling into our physical education curriculum. The ultimate goal of this program is for every student to know how to ride a bike by the time they leave our district--resulting in them having the opportunity to ride alongside their neighborhood friends, or possibly being their mode of transportation for future employment

3-Season High School Athletics

SBJC now offers after-school athletics to our high school students, including Cross Country, Bowling, Basketball, and Track & Field, with plans of joining the NJSIAA by 2024. Athletics provides our students with the chance to grow and develop leadership skills, to promote healthy living, and to enhance social/communication skills with their peers. Student participation in a sport can promote their future involvement in extracurriculars when they return to their home district.

STRATEGIC PLAN

MIDDLE STATES ACCREDITATION

The Middle States Association is an accrediting commission that collaborates with schools and universities worldwide. By pursuing accreditation through Middle States, the SBJC is making a commitment to self-improvement, enhancing our schools and district, and engaging all members of our district's community in this transformative process. Below are the goals of our district-wide Strategic Plan.



Objective 1.

Least Restrictive Environment

The vision of the SBJC revolves around equipping our students with the tools necessary for successful post-scholastic lives. The initial measure to ensure the realization of this vision involves developing a system that guarantees our students are learning in their least restrictive environment (LRE).



Objective 2.

Professional Development

This plan will guide the district in establishing the implementation of a model that fosters the professional growth of our faculty and staff. The plan emphasizes the use of data to inform the selection of professional development offerings and will also concentrate on enhancing the training model for all our new hires.



Objective 3.

Communication

The goal is to implement an effective communication system for internal and external stakeholders, continually analyzing data from surveys and other sources to enhance information dissemination.

The plan also aims to improve parent engagement by offering opportunities, training, support services, and district resources to our SBJC families.



Objective 4.

Functional Living Skills

This objective was formulated to maximize opportunities for students to learn and apply skills that foster their independence beyond their academic years. We aim to expand programming in the following areas: Independent Living Skills, Social/Emotional Skills, Functional Communication Skills, and Community-Based Living Skills.

CURRICULUM

The South Bergen Jointure works to maintain a balance of academic instruction that addresses the specific goals and objectives outlined in each student's Individualized Education Plan (IEP) and is aligned with the New Jersey Student Learning Standards (NJSLS) as appropriate.

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SBJC has developed and implemented academic curricula that align fully with the NJSLS, offering clear and consistent learning goals for grades K-12 across the following nine content areas:

Career Readiness, Life Literacies & Key Skills · Comprehensive Health & Physical Education · Computer Science & Design Thinking · English Language Arts · Mathematics · Science · Social Studies · Visual & Performing Arts · World Languages

For the content areas of English Language Arts, Mathematics, and Science, SBJC curricula are also aligned with the alternate set of state standards: the Essential Elements. The SBJC preschool curriculum is aligned to the state's Preschool Teaching and Learning Standards.

SBJC implements Creative Curriculum across its preschool classrooms.

DISTRICT ASSESSMENT

In addition to program-based progress monitoring, SBJC also implements various formative assessments to determine student levels of performance and drive instruction. These assessments include:

- The Assessment of Basic Language and Learning Skills
- The Verbal Behavior Milestones Assessment and Placement Program
- The Assessment of Functional Living Skills
- Catalyst - ABA Data Collection Platform
- Developmental Reading Assessment

STATE ASSESSMENT

The South Bergen Jointure Commission is a state-approved testing site for the administration of state assessments. SBJC students currently participate in the following computer-based state assessments:

- Grades 3-11** New Jersey Student Learning Assessments (NJSLA)
- Grades 3-11** Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM)
- Grades 5, 8, 11** New Jersey Student Learning Assessment for Science (NJSLA-S)

DISTRICT TECHNOLOGY

SBJC also infuses the use of various online resources to enhance instruction. The district's online programs currently include:

**BrainPOP · BrainPOP Jr. · SplashMath
 Learning.com · Pearson Realize**

Below are the core curriculum programs currently implemented across the district, including both grade level and intervention resources.

English Language Arts		
Grade Level Resources	Grades K-5 Grades 6-12	Pearson Scott Foresman: Reading Street Age-appropriate literature
Intervention Resources		Reading Milestones Edmark Reading Program Preventing Academic Failure (PAF) Wilson Reading Program Making Connections (Grades 3-5) Jamestown Literature (Grades 6-12) High Interest/Low Readability Books

Mathematics		
Grade Level Resources	Grades K-12	McGraw Hill: Math Connects
Intervention Resources	Grades K-8	McGraw Hill: Math Triumphs

Science		
Grade Level Resources	Grades K-6 Grades 7-8 Grades 9-12	Harcourt School Publishers: HSP Science Holt Science & Technology Pacemaker: General Science Pacemaker: Biology AGS: Environmental Science
Intervention Resources	Grades K-6	Harcourt School Publishers: HSP Below Level Readers

Social Studies		
Grade Level Resources	Grades K-5 Grades 6-8 Grades 9-12	Pearson: Scott Foresman: Social Studies History Alive: The Ancient World History Alive: America Through Industrialism History Alive: Pursuing American Ideals History Alive: World Connections Pacemaker: World History Pacemaker: United States History
Intervention Resources	Grades K-5 Grades 6-8	Pearson: Scott Foresman: Below Level Readers Steck-Vaughn: America's Story

OUTREACH & RELATED SERVICES

The South Bergen Jointure Commission employs Occupational Therapists, Physical Therapists, Speech-Language Pathologists, Board Certified Behavior Analysts, School Social Workers, Psychologists, and Learning Disabilities Teaching Consultants to deliver services within our district and to participating districts.

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Director of Special Projects, Outreach, and Related Services

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OUTREACH SERVICES

OT/PT/SPEECH THERAPIES

- Services
- Evaluations

BEHAVIORAL THERAPIES

- Consultations
- Evaluations
- Trainings
- Staff Trainings
- Conducting Functional Behavior Assessments
- Development of Behavior Intervention Plans
- Trainings and Support for School-Avoidant Student

IN-HOME/COMMUNITY BEHAVIORAL SUPPORT

- ABA-Based Teaching Programs (Therapy and Coordination)
- Family Education and Behavioral Support

RELATED SERVICES

PHYSICAL THERAPY

Our physical therapists design and implement therapeutic interventions, encompassing compensation, remediation, and prevention strategies, as well as adaptations. They concentrate on enhancing functional mobility, ensuring safe and efficient access, and facilitating participation in educational activities and routines within natural learning environments.

SPEECH THERAPY

Speech therapy centers on enhancing our students' communication abilities by fostering the development of receptive, expressive, and pragmatic language skills. SBJC's speech-language pathologists employ various forms of communication with their students, encompassing nonverbal language, verbal language, and augmentative and alternative communication (AAC).

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

Occupational therapy addresses the physical, cognitive, psychosocial, and sensory components of performance. The SBJC OT concentrates on academics, play and leisure, social participation, self-care skills (Activities of Daily Living), and transition/work skills.

BEHAVIORAL THERAPY

Our Behavioral Health Department provides SBJC students with social skills instruction, individual and group counseling, ongoing classroom behavioral support, Functional Behavior Assessments, and the development of individualized behavior plans.

AFTER-SCHOOL SERVICES

We provide after-school services for:

- Occupational therapy
- Physical therapy
- Speech therapy

Rates for the current school year can be found on our district website at: www.njsbjc.org/business



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As a state approved Coordinating Transportation Services Agency (CTSA), the South Bergen Jointure Commission provides coordination of transportation for Bergen County School Districts at a cost savings per district.

Transportation is coordinated and/or arranged for:

- Special education
- Regular education
- Non-public school children

Public, non-public, and special education transportation are coordinated to maximize the vehicles use on each route, including athletic and field trips.

TRANSPORTATION DATA

Total no. of routes: **591**
Total no. of districts served: **42**
Total no. of students transported: **3,239**
Cost savings of: **50% or more**

HOME PROGRAMMING

The aim of the SBJC Home Program is to instruct students in becoming productive, independent members of their family and community. Home Programming emphasizes collaborating with students and their families to cultivate and apply skills in their natural environment. The SBJC Home Program supports families and caregivers by implementing proven techniques from the school day that have demonstrated success for their child. Employing Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) strategies to teach skills and manage behaviors, all home programming is data-driven and continuously evaluated to inform future programming.



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

PD CONSORTIUM

The SBJC collaborates with its participating districts to provide full and half-day workshops for teachers and support staff throughout the school year. The South Bergen Jointure Commission encourages and welcomes participants from both Jointure-affiliated and non-affiliated districts. This includes on-site daytime, after-school, and evening trainings tailored for teachers, administrators, related service providers, para-professionals, as well as parent trainings.

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CURRICULUM CONSORTIUM

Comprised of our member districts' Directors of Curriculum, the SBJC Curriculum Consortium is an organization formed with the purpose of enhancing educational programming for all South Bergen school districts. It fosters collaboration on the development of new curriculum in response to updated state standards issued by the NJDOE.

EXTENDED SCHOOL YEAR

The SBJC can provide Extended School Year to support students in maintaining the academic, social/behavioral, communication, or other skills that they have learned as part of their Individualized Education Program (IEP). Determination for ESY services is made by the student's CST at the child's annual review meeting. ESY often takes place throughout the four weeks in the month of July, with school hours adjusted by campus. Teachers, paraprofessionals, and related services are continued through the month of July.

NJAC 6A:14-4.3 Program options

"The IEP team shall make an individual determination regarding the need for an extended school year program. An extended school year program provides for the extension of special education and related services beyond the regular school year. An extended school year program is provided in accordance with the student's IEP when an interruption in educational programming causes the student's performance to revert to a lower level of functioning and recoupment cannot be expected in a reasonable length of time. The IEP team shall consider all relevant factors in determining the need for an extended school year program."

WE ARE THE SBJC

The South Bergen Jointure Commission is a public special needs school district whose classrooms are not defined by walls and whose students are not defined by their classifications.

Our vision centers on establishing a formalized system that ensures the federal mandate of Least Restrictive Environment is being best achieved, and our goal as an educational institution is to prepare our students for independent living following their completion of our program. We know that it is only through the collective efforts of our stakeholders—students, faculty, staff, families, partners, board members, and our communities—that we'll be able to achieve this vision and goal.

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