

# Trenton Public Schools: (Re)Building Relationships While Solidifying Partnerships

Superintendent, James Earle  
Director, Abdel A. Gutierrez  
Board Presentation  
November 2022

# **How We Are Helping Special Education Students Recover From The Pandemic?**

**Here is one way and why!**



**In the U.S. overall, 14.5 percent of all students were special education students (ages 3-21) in 2020-21. The percentage varied by state from 11.3 percent in Hawaii and Texas to 20.5 percent in New York.  
New Jersey 17.3 percent**

**EdWeek.Org  
July 22, 2022**

**Students With Disabilities Urge Smoother  
Transition to College**

**EdWeek.Org  
November 1, 2022**

**The Office of the Secretary of Higher Education (OSHE) County College-Based Center for Adult Transition (CAT) has awarded Mercer County Community College with a Grant to help our Students with Special Needs achieve their post-secondary educational goals.**

**MCCC's (and TPS') Goal for the Center for Adult Transition (CAT) is to broaden our ability to meet our recent Graduates where they are... and reset their path toward certification and/or credit coursework in high-demand jobs.**

## Our Partnership Goal

**CAT @ MCCC will do this by expanding wraparound services to support recruiting and onboarding students from TPS with developmental disabilities. With the increased outreach, CAT will build upon the DREAM Program to accept more students and increase their likelihood of creating paths to credential building, supported employment, or credit-bearing continuing education.**

**MCCC will provide continuous professional development for our faculty and staff in case management and behavior management when teaching and assisting our students with developmental disabilities.**

## Steps taken with our Partners at MCCC/CAT

Under Mr. Earle's stewardship, our Special Education Leadership has been meeting with Dr. Gonzalo E. Perez and his team to coordinate a host of activities. Dr. Perez is the MCCC Dean for Innovation, Online Education, Student Success & Lifelong Learning.

MCCC/CAT commitment has secured dedicated offices and classrooms, creating and posting various CAT grant positions, along with creating and developing CAT specific programs for our students.

A CAT Advisory Board will be assembled and a meeting will take place before December.

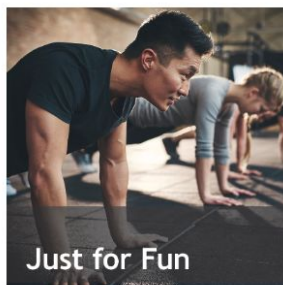
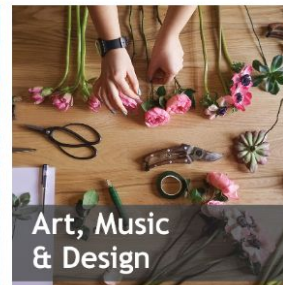
## PROGRAM PLAN

The DREAM Program is student-centered; each student's course of study is determined by the student's goals and needs. Areas of focus include:

- Academic experiences, in which students build skills in reading, writing and math and explore areas of both career and personal interest such as technology and the arts.
- Career-related experiences, in which students participate in job shadowing and develop job-seeking skills such as resume writing, interviewing, and portfolio development.
- Independent living skill development in areas such as self-advocacy and self-determination.
- Socialization experiences through full participation in college activities.



## COURSES AND CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS





## Our Initial 25 Graduates for December/January Orientation

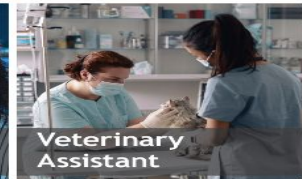
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### Certification Programs





**Superintendent's Agenda Item: Proposal to Approve Trenton Public Schools Partnership with Mercer County Community College, Center for Adult Transition (CAT).**

**BE IT RESOLVED:** that the Trenton Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves to help students with special needs achieve their post-secondary educational goals through the partnership with Mercer County Community College, Center for Adult Transition (CAT) to broaden our ability to meet students where they are. First, to reach out to recent graduates affected by the Pandemic to participate in this initial phase with the possible renewal and introduction to the Class of 2023 Students with IEPs. The pilot is scheduled through June 2023. NO COST TO THE BOARD.

# Questions, Comments, & Concerns

## Thank you for your support

Our Initial (25) Graduates for December/January Orientation

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