



## Multiple Disabilities Support Classrooms

### The Day School at The Children's Institute of Pittsburgh



The Day School at The Children's Institute has 11 Multiple Disabilities Support (MDS) classrooms for students ranging from ages 5-17 years old. Students identified with multiple disabilities have two or more disabling conditions that affect learning and other important life functions. The Day School supports students with multiple disabilities by providing comprehensive academic instruction and related services. It is our goal to support students as they work towards their greatest level of self-sufficiency and independence.

#### Academic Programming & Curriculum

Through a transdisciplinary approach, our teams work together to provide instruction aligned with the PA Core Standards across a variety of school and community settings. Typically, the educational teams consist of a teacher, paraprofessionals, physical therapists, occupational therapists, speech language pathologists, Board-Certified Behavior Analysts, and other specialized professionals (vision specialist, school psychologist, social worker, nurse, etc.). Programming within the MDS classroom consists of the following:

- Small class sizes with opportunities for 1:1 instruction and small group instruction
- A highly-structured classroom with clear expectations
- Opportunities to practice skills in a variety of school and academic settings
- Access to advanced educational technology
- Integration of PA Core Academics with functional life and adapted behavior skills

Educators utilize best practices in special education and instructional techniques based on the principles of Applied Behavior Analysis. Educational methods include, but are not limited to the following:

- Individualized assistance with activities of daily living
- Prompt fading
- A multi-sensory approach to learning
- Direct and errorless learning
- Independent practice
- Breaking tasks down to smaller components through task analysis
- Repeated practice
- Data-based decision making
- Consistent positive reinforcement
- Differentiated instruction
- Use of mobile technology

