

Indian Prairie STEPS Program
Description of Use
for
Property at 387 Shuman Blvd., Naperville, IL.

The use of this property is for the STEPS (Supportive Training Experience Post-Secondary) program run by Indian Prairie School District 204. This transition program, for young adults 18-22 years of age, provides a range of options and supports that are necessary for students who exhibit deficits in the areas of cognition and learning, communication, social skills, emotional regulation and/or executive functioning. STEPS focuses on skills aimed at achieving a student's individual goals for independent living after high school.

Opportunities and activities that promote independent may include work training, partnering with community recreational and/or volunteer programs, accessing community college support, and enjoying various community resources. Over 55 of the young adults in the program have active job sites in the community where they are learning and practicing job skills under the supervision of a District 204 staff member. Within the program, the young adults are supported by teachers and the services of physical therapists, occupational therapists, nursing, vocational coordinators, speech pathologists, and teaching assistants. A life skills approach to academics is used to optimize the functionality of what is being taught.

The STEPS program follows the established school calendar for Indian Prairie School District 204, including observance of holidays and winter/spring break. The school day runs from 7:30 a.m. to 1:45p.m. Staff remain in the building until 2:45 p.m. There are projected to be approximately 120 young adults and 55 staff for the 2022-23 school year. The impact on adjacent users, given that the program will occupy nearly the entire east side of the building, will be minimal. Students will enter a common hallway and be allowed a secure access, via key card, to the space. Some students will need to access the space via elevator to accommodate wheelchair usage.

A summer program running from mid-June through mid-July also has students in a shortened day session from Monday through Thursday. The summer program is an extension of the school year program and no other use for the space is anticipated.

The parking space available for staff is ample. In the morning, the young adults will arrive via bus. Approximately 20 buses will arrive each day. A plan for drop off and pick up in the afternoon is attached for review. This process will not impede or otherwise affect the other tenants of the building. The current time for the completion of drop off is under 10 minutes. The transportation plan for review will not affect any other tenant from entering or exiting the building, nor will it result in a traffic or roadway capacity issue. There is also no issue with the level of available parking to accommodate the STEPS staff, as the parking lot area is extremely large.

Students will enter the main lobby and proceed down the stairs to the common hallway, where they will sign in with the STEPS receptionist and be buzzed into the space. During the day, some students will be leaving to go to their job sites, community volunteer sites, YMCA/fitness locations, or other community locations. They will sign out with the receptionist and be back before the program dismissal at 1:45 p.m.

The presence of a program for young adults with disabilities has a tremendously positive impact on the other tenants, surrounding businesses (as potential future work sites or volunteer sites), and community. The young adults are eager to make a difference in their surroundings and learn the skills that will make them contributing members of the community and society. Their energy and authenticity are inspiring and make for a creative use of the subject property.