



IPS IUPUI-SITE [Skills for Independence, Transition, and Employment] Program



September 2019

Program Goals

IUPUI-SITE is one of two IPS transition programs for 18-21-year-old students with intellectual/cognitive disabilities who graduate with a Certificate of Completion. The SITE Program is a 1-2-year campus and city-based transition program provided on the campus of IUPUI and in the City of Indianapolis that serves as a bridge between high school and the adult life that follows. SITE began with its first student cohort in 2006 as the first campus-based post-secondary transition program in the state of Indiana and has served as a model for many subsequent programs. The SITE Program provides students with focused instruction and practice in skills that prepare them for self-reliance, employment, pursuit of personal interests, and a fulfilling well-rounded adult life as a citizen of Indianapolis. These skills are articulated in the document, *IUPUI-SITE Student Competencies and Outcomes*, and include navigating the campus and city by learning to ride the IndyGO bus as a means of daily transportation to and from the IUPUI campus and future community destinations. Hallmarks of the SITE Program are the design of personalized systems to promote self-reliance in place of direct staff supervision and the creation of a personalized daily plan with each student aligned to their interests and assets that they can sustain well beyond their participation in the SITE program. Additional information and details are available by visiting the www.site.iupui.edu website.

Staffing Structure

The IUPUI SITE program has a capacity of 16 students and is staffed by two IPS Teachers, one IPS Instructional Assistant, and one IPS Employment Training Specialist/Job Coach. In addition, students may be supported by IUPUI student mentors and IUPUI work/study students.

IUPUI-SITE students are young adults with IEPs ages 18-21 who:

- Have a cognitive disability,
- Are graduating with a Certificate of Completion,
- Are enrolled in IPS (successful applicants from outside of IPS enroll in IPS upon acceptance into the program), and
- Have interest, commitment, and parental support to become more self-directed, accountable, and responsible with greater independence from constant direct supervision.

Application and Enrollment Process

IUPUI-SITE is an option for students to pursue when their post-secondary goal is a well-rounded adult life that includes a full array of features universally desirable, including a social life, employment, freedom, pursuit of personal interests, self-direction, and management of daily life and responsibilities.

The annual due date for application packets is in December, prior to winter break. Students in their final year of high school working toward a Certificate of Completion must work closely with their parents, teacher, and Employment Training Specialist/Job Coach to complete their application and attachment packet. Prior to submitting an application, the student, parent, and teacher **must** visit and tour the SITE Program on the IUPUI campus via an appointment with the SITE teachers. Repeat visits and follow up communication with the SITE teachers is highly recommended for any applicant, parent, and teacher to assure full understanding of the program and promote subsequent learning experiences that prepare a student for success.

Application packets are reviewed by an admission team, and applicants are notified of acceptance typically the following February. Services begin with a person-centered planning meeting second semester for assessment purposes, followed by summer travel safety/IndyGo bus instruction practice and IPS enrollment for those not already enrolled in IPS.