EDUCATION OVERVIEW

Kennedy Krieger Is Meeting Students' Needs

Imagine this: You're a parent who loves your child fiercely. You see their effort, their potential, and their light. But your child has complex cognitive, developmental, medical, and/or behavioral needs. And no matter how hard their school tries—and they do try—the system isn't equipped to help your child grow the way you know they can. You see your child fall behind, not because they lack motivation, but because they lack the right individualized services and support.

So where do you turn when all you want is a place that sees your child the way you do—as capable, worthy, and full of promise?

For many families, the answer has been Kennedy Krieger's School Programs. These specialized schools, serving publicly funded students with intellectual and developmental disabilities, offer a pathway to truly individualized education. Importantly, they also offer hope. They offer understanding. They offer a place where children with intellectual and developmental disabilities, complex medical and psychiatric conditions, and behavioral challenges are not only welcomed—they are celebrated.

What began modestly in the late 1970s with just a few students inside Kennedy Krieger's initial building in East Baltimore—a building that housed inpatient and outpatient clinical care, research, and the early school program—has now grown into five specialized schools, serving nearly 500 publicly funded students from across Maryland and Washington, D.C.

Kennedy Krieger is now the second biggest provider of publicly funded nonpublic special education in Maryland. Our schools are officially approved and accredited by both the Maryland State Department of Education and the National Commission for the Accreditation of Special Education Services (NCASES).

Students come to our schools through referrals from their local school system's IEP (Individualized Education Program) team, which includes their parents or guardians. Right now, we're proud to serve students from more than half of the public school districts across the state.

"Kennedy Krieger means HOPE."

– María, a Kennedy Krieger student's mom

At Kennedy Krieger, students ages 5 to 21 years receive more than academics. They receive instruction that nurtures their emotional, social, and behavioral growth in a space built around their individual strengths. They are supported by a transdisciplinary team that understands every student deserves a personalized approach.

The result? Students not only thrive in the moment, but they are also prepared for life beyond school. Because at Kennedy Krieger, we don't just ask how a child is doing in third grade—we ask who they'll become in their thirties. We believe in inclusion for life.

Every child deserves a chance to reach their full potential—not just in theory, but in reality. Kennedy Krieger makes that fulfillment possible. We are proud to walk with families through some of their most difficult journeys and meet our students where they are. Together, we help them grow and thrive.

To read the full article,
scan the QR code or visit:
KennedyKrieger.org/HopeHappens/Students

This is where **HOPE** happens.
THIS is Kennedy Krieger.

THE CAMPAIGN TO BENEFIT CHILDREN

Kennedy Krieger