



The Naples Act

Tuition is typically funded by the student's home district, which draws upon a provision in the 1989 NJ education law called the Naples Act (NJ18A:46-14) and covers all Cornerstone services. The term "Naples Act" is derived from the name of the legislator who was instrumental in the passage of this amendment to N.J.S.A. 6A:14-6.5 on August 9, 1989. A Naples placement may be utilized whenever the CST determines that the private accredited school is the most appropriate placement for the student. N.J.A.C. 6A:14-6.5 (b) (3).

This act broadened the range of private schools where special needs students could be placed, creating a better fit between the child and the school and maximizing the likelihood of a successful outcome. Placements under the Naples Act have been routinely authorized since 1989. Since Cornerstone opened in 2006, over 125 school districts in New Jersey have placed students at the school using the Naples Act.

Cornerstone meets the requirements of a Naples Act placement. Cornerstone is a non-sectarian school accredited by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools (MSA-CESS), the National Independent Private Schools Association (NIPSA), and Cognia.

Things you should know:

- School district reimbursement by the State is the same as any other out-of-district placement, and your district might be eligible for extraordinary aid.

- The Naples Act, N.J.S.A. 18A:46-14, allows special education students to be placed in an accredited private school.
- All academic programs meet and follow the New Jersey Learning Standards and the teaching staff are certified in the area that they teach.
- Accredited (e.g., Middle States), private schools are eligible to be a Naples placement for disabled students (N.J.S.A. 18A:46-14).
- Completing a Naples application is extremely simple, and Cornerstone prepares a complete package for each placement, making the work of the school professional even easier.
- The difference between an approved school and Cornerstone is that Cornerstone meets and surpasses all the minimum standards required by the NJ DOE for approval status. However, by not being limited by the DOE but still accredited by MSA-CESS, NIPSA, and Cognia, Cornerstone has the autonomy and flexibility to develop and implement new academic and clinical paradigms to meet the needs of each student.

There is no reason why a school district should be reluctant to use a Naples placement for a disabled student; reluctance to make such a placement limits the options for the CST and can make the district more vulnerable to legal action by disgruntled parents.



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For more information on the Naples Act or assistance placing a student at Cornerstone, please get in touch with our Director of Enrollment, Director of District Outreach, or our Executive Director at 908-543-0220 x 200.