An OVERVIEW about the Partnership Program for Recruiting, Preparing, and Certifying Beginning Special Educators
Prince George’s County Public Schools and Johns Hopkins University
80% Tuition Assistance Available*

Applications due April 16, 2004
JHU Coursework begins June 1, 2004 and PGCPS Employment begins August 2004

Purpose of this Partnership:
The purpose of the PGCPS and JHU Partnership is to recruit, prepare, and certify beginning special educators for PGCPS. Participants will complete a two-year graduate program at JHU concurrent with teaching as a special educator in PGCPS. The graduate program results in both a master's degree and eligibility for Maryland certification in special education. Participants must commit to teaching as a special educator in PGCPS for two years after completing the graduate degree (see Letter of Commitment for PGCPS teaching until June 2008 and tuition assistance commitments).

Eligible Applicants:
Eligible applicants include people who desire a career change into special education and who have an undergraduate degree in an area other than special education. Applicants may already be employed in PGCPS; however, applicants may not be fully-certified in special education nor near full certification. Applicants must have a sufficient grade point average (e.g., 3.0 on a 4.0 scale) to qualify for immediate admittance to JHU graduate programs, and they must be qualified for immediate employment in PGCPS as a special educator. For both organizations, absence of criminal activity is required. We are seeking excellent applicants who are prepared to begin a demanding career in special education concurrent with completing a comprehensive and rigorous graduate program. We encourage applications from males, people with disabilities, and people from culturally diverse backgrounds.

Program of Studies:
The 42-credit Mild to Moderate Disabilities (MMD) Program of Studies consists of eleven 3-credit courses, three 1-credit elective choices, and two 3-credit internships. Each internship occurs at the participants' school site, where they are working as a special educator. Coursework focuses on research-based effective practices for teaching students with mild to moderate disabilities. Coursework begins June 1, 2004 and ends August 2006. Summer courses occur on weekdays, evenings, and weekends. Most school year courses are scheduled on weekday late afternoon/evenings, and some courses and seminars will occur on Saturdays and Sundays. Courses are offered at the JHU Columbia Center. Participants specialize in teaching students with mild to moderate disabilities (learning disabilities, emotional disturbance, and mild developmental disabilities or mild mental retardation) in either grades 1-8 (Elementary/Middle) or grades 6-12 (Secondary/Adult). Participants are required to achieve qualifying scores on Praxis I and II standardized assessments per JHU and Maryland State Department of Education requirements at specific points in their program.

Selection Process:
Applicants must submit complete application packets (incomplete applications will not be considered) by April 16, 2004. Content will be reviewed by a Partnership Selection Committee, and the highest-scoring applicants will be invited for a personal interview and spontaneous writing sample on April 23 (applicants will be notified of their scheduled time). After this, the highest-scoring applicants will be notified they may be eligible to become a participant and receive 80% tuition assistance* for the graduate program. Selected applicants need to attend a meeting on Tuesday, April 27 at 4:30 to review the conditions for accepting the grant. Selected applicants who make a decision to accept the grant will reconvene on Thursday, April 29 at 4:30 for an Orientation Meeting. Selected applicants must apply and be eligible for immediate admittance to JHU graduate programs and employment in PGCPS.

Note: Partnership Applications are used solely by the Partnership Selection Committee and do not substitute for information required by JHU or PGCPS - these are completely separate applications. Although applicants are not required to apply for JHU graduate programs or PGCPS employment until they are notified of their selection, we strongly encourage applicants to initiate these processes concurrent with submitting their Partnership Application (www.spsbe.jhu.edu and www.pgcps.org) and/or completion of one of the four prerequisite or co-requisite courses for the graduate program.

JHU Project Director: Dr. Peggy King-Sears (301/294-7040 or kingsear@jhu.edu)
PGCPS Project liaison: Ms. Jill Hildenbrand (301/408-5505 or jhilden@pgcps.org)

* 80% tuition assistance is contingent on continued grant funding. At this time, we do anticipate the grant will continue to be funded. However, we cannot guarantee this (even when we think it is likely). Should the grant not continue to be funded, participants will not be held to the pace described in this Partnership.