



St. Johns County School District, Excellence in Public Education since 1869

How can a SJCS D student be eligible for Project SEARCH?

The following must be recognized and/or completed in order for a student to be considered, eligible, for Project SEARCH.

- The student must have a disability, graduated, and defer the receipt of their standard diploma in order to continue receiving services through SJCS D.
- The student must apply and be approved as a consumer of Vocational Rehabilitation.
- The student must apply to Project SEARCH through an application process provided by the program's Instructor. (Spring 2021)
- The student must undergo a Skills Assessment Day, located on site, to assess the student's level of vocational skills. (Spring 2021)
- If accepted, the student must commit to a one time, unpaid, 10-month internship program at The Renaissance World Golf Village Resort.
- The student must not have any prior commitments (job, financial obligations, future moves out of district, etc.) that could interfere with Project SEARCH.
- The student's final goal at the end of their internships must be employment.

What is Project SEARCH?

Project SEARCH was developed at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center, a research environment that fosters visionary thinking and innovation. It began in 1996, when Erin Riehle was Director of Cincinnati Children's Emergency Department. Erin felt that, because the hospital served individuals with developmental disabilities as patients, it made sense that they should commit to hiring people in this group. She wondered if it would be possible to train people with developmental disabilities to fill some of the high-turnover, entry-level positions in her department. These jobs involved complex and systematic tasks, such as stocking supply cabinets. To learn more about the feasibility of her idea, she turned to Great Oaks Career Campuses and the Hamilton County Board of Developmental Disability Services. Through this outreach, Erin met Susie Rutkowski, then the special education director at Great Oaks. Erin and Susie formed a partnership that was instantaneous, and together they turned the idea of filling a handful of jobs in Cincinnati Children's Emergency Department into a comprehensive, internationally recognized program model – Project SEARCH.

Contact Information

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Project SEARCH
Renaissance WGV Resort
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Project SEARCH Renaissance WGV

*The Renaissance World Golf
Village Resort Saint Augustine*



Successful Employment Outcomes

Awards and Job Placement Recognition

Job placement and successful long-term employment is based on the Intern's ability to learn and grow during their internships. Although job placement is not guaranteed, The Renaissance WGV Resort's Project SEARCH, has been awarded and recognized each year that they have been in operation for their high level of employment outcomes. In addition, The Renaissance has been recognized and awarded, by the state of Florida, for their commitment in employing individuals with disabilities.

Hear for yourselves what Project SEARCH is all about!

"Project SEARCH helped prepare me for the workforce and helped me get a job too. I felt more confident and ready for the real-world after my internships at The Renaissance."

- Intern Graduate

The Renaissance and Project SEARCH have set the standard for what it means to have successful vocational training and long-term, competitive paid employment.

Additional Benefits and Outcomes

- Post-Secondary Training and Internship Experience at no cost.
- Opportunity to work in a high-status organization and receive training under Marriot and Atrium Hospitality.
- Professional Resume with References and LORs from Atrium and Marriot.
- Official Project SEARCH Certification
- Travel Training and more.



This is The Renaissance World Golf Village Resort's fourth year in operation with Project SEARCH.

Internships and Workplace Readiness Curriculum Training.

Over the past several years, The Renaissance has supported the growth and development of our young adults with disabilities. There are currently over 20 different internships through 5 separate departments at The Renaissance. Internships and Vocational Training range from Front Desk Clerk, Resort Shop Barista, Room Attendant, Maintenance/Engineering, Host/Hostess, Servers, Line Cooks, Banquet and many more.

In addition to the on-site job coaching and vocational training, Project SEARCH also provides intensive, Workplace-Readiness Curriculum Training, for its interns. The curriculum, which is taught on site, focuses on Self-Advocacy, Professional Communication in the Workplace, Health and Wellness, Managing Stress and Emotions, Interview Preparation, Financial Literacy, Team Building, Technology, Workplace Safety and more.