

**Dutchess BOCES  
Mission Statement**

The Board of Cooperative Educational Services provides educational leadership through service, solutions, and savings.

**Vision Statement**

Dutchess BOCES is recognized for its premier educational and support services providing quality and cost-effective solutions for our community. We promote an organizational culture fostering collaboration, innovation, efficiency, excellence, and leadership that is embraced by BOCES and its community.



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**DutchessBOCES**  
EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

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**DutchessBOCES**

**PEACCE**

PROVIDING AN EDUCATION FOR AUTISTIC  
AND COMMUNICATION-IMPAIRED  
CHILDREN EFFECTIVELY



### **PEACCE Mission Statement**

- To enable individuals with autism to function as independently as possible
- To provide exemplary services throughout Dutchess County to individuals with autism and their families

### **Program Description**

PEACCE was started at Dutchess BOCES in September of 1997. We began with three elementary classes at the Salt Point Center. Today, we offer several classes at the Salt Point Center from kindergarten to 8th grade and in our component districts from kindergarten to high school.

### **PEACCE Goals**

- Prepare individuals with autism to live and work more effectively at home, school, and in the community
- Increase independence
- Help students understand their world
- Help students acquire communication skills that will enable them to relate to other people
- Give students the necessary competence to make choices concerning their lives
- Improve students' coping skills

### **Classroom Organization**

The classroom teachers and related service providers have had training in the TEACCH Model of classroom organization. Our class size is six students with one teacher and two teaching assistants. All instruction is done 1:1 or in small group modules. As skills are mastered, students are introduced to higher level tasks. Mastered skills are practiced during independent work opportunities. Learning experiences are standards-based and emphasize life skills. Students participate in field trips to support the learning standards and to facilitate the transfer of skills from classroom to community.

### **Schedules**

We provide our students with schedules to help organize their day and reduce any anticipated anxiety over what comes next. Students begin with picture/icon-based schedules and eventually progress to written schedules or checklists. As students show growth, they learn to transition and participate in school-wide activities more independently.

### **Assessment**

We maintain records of student growth using data collection methods and curriculum-based measurements. Standardized competency assessments are given to our students annually in preparation for annual review meetings. Students in our program take regular state assessments or the New York State Alternate Assessment.

