

County of Bergen
Department of Human Services
DIVISION OF FAMILY GUIDANCE

MISSION STATEMENT

Bergen County's Division of Family Guidance provides clinical, residential, educational, correctional, case management and monitoring services to at-risk children, adolescents, and families, particularly those who are otherwise unable to receive needed services.

THE FAMILY GUIDANCE VISION:

The Division of Family Guidance is Bergen County's resource for youth and families in need.

Values:

- Collaborative, Creative, and Empirically Driven Programming
- Safe, Respectful, Dependable and Therapeutic Environments
- Developmentally Appropriate Expectations
- Empowerment through Opportunity
- Community Safety

CONNECTIONS

Bergen Community College
at the Meadowlands
1280 Wall Street West
Lyndhurst, NJ 07071

Philip Beamer
Program Administrator
Phone (201) 937-7236
Connections@co.bergen.nj.us

COUNTY OF BERGEN



James J. Tedesco III
County Executive

BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

DIVISION OF FAMILY GUIDANCE

BERGEN
NEW JERSEY *County*
CONNECTIONS

HIGH SCHOOL
EQUIVALENCY PREPARATION
LIFE SKILLS EDUCATION



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OVERVIEW

- ❖ **Connections** is a program for out-of-school youth sponsored by the Bergen County Division of Family Guidance. It is located on the campus of Bergen Community College at the Meadowlands in Lyndhurst, NJ.
- ❖ **Connections** helps students obtain their high school equivalency diploma, secure admission to college or other training programs and/or prepare for employment.
- ❖ The program emphasizes basic skills, habits and attitudes that are appropriate for the world of work.
- ❖ There is no charge to participate in **Connections**.
- ❖ The staff - an academic teacher, arts instructor, case manager, vocational counselor and program administrator - address individual needs by providing a structured day program with individualized support and guidance.
- ❖ Family Guidance resources such as individual and family counseling and learning assessments are available to **Connections** students on an as needed basis.

SERVICES

- ❖ Basic education and preparation for the High School Equivalency Examination
- ❖ Preparation for post high school entrance examinations
- ❖ Work Readiness Education
- ❖ Career Assessment and Guidance
- ❖ Life Skills Education
- ❖ Computer Instruction
- ❖ Self-exploration through Interactive Workshops and the Arts
- ❖ Health-related Education



GETTING STARTED

Who is eligible?

Bergen County residents 16 through 21 years old who are no longer enrolled in high school. We encourage students to sign out of school only after they have been accepted at **Connections**.

How do I apply?

Contact staff at **(201) 937-7236** to schedule an appointment for a personal interview. Placement testing is given to determine your strengths in each of the tests on the High School Equivalency Examination: Mathematics, Reading, Writing, Science and Social Studies.

How long is the Program?

It varies based on the individual's academic skill level. The average length of stay is four to six months.

What are the hours?

The hours are from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm, Monday through Friday, throughout the year.