

PRESS RELEASE

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***Mayor Fenty Visits A Unique Education Program
for Students with Developmental Disabilities***

Washington, DC—On Wednesday, September 5, Mayor Adrian Fenty will visit a unique education program for students with developmental disabilities at Anacostia High School. The program, operated by St. John's Community Services (SJCS), was the first of its kind in 1994 to provide educational opportunities to students with disabilities in public school settings in the District of Columbia.

The Mayor will be introduced to St. John's educational services, a non-public school program located within the D.C. Public Schools (DCPS), and experience the benefits of students with disabilities being educated alongside their non-disabled peers. Mayor Fenty will also offer a brief overview of his plans for students with disabilities in the District. In attendance will be SJCS students ages 11 to 22, parents and relatives, and the SJCS staff to host the event and answer questions.

The St. John's Community Services educational services are offered for elementary and high school aged children with disabilities in DCPS classrooms. The services are integrated into the public schools, providing opportunities for SJCS students to participate in general education classes and activities. This collaborative partnership between St. John's and DCPS supports the students to transition back into the public school program or attain the skills necessary to live and work within the community of their choosing.

St. John's Community Services is in the process of celebrating 140 years supporting children and adults in the District of Columbia. Founded in 1868, SJCS is a non-profit, non-denominational agency that is dedicated to *advancing community support and opportunities for people living with disabilities*. SJCS provides community living, supported employment, community participation and educational services to over 500 adults and children in Tennessee, Washington, DC, Virginia, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania.

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