

## Highly trained staff and specialists

The Pathways Academy staff is comprised of certified special education teachers and clinical specialists knowledgeable about the difficulties affecting children and adolescents with autism spectrum disorders. Our specialists include a speech and language therapist, an occupational therapist, a clinical psychologist, a school psychologist, a neuropsychologist and a child psychiatrist. The director supervises the clinical staff and works closely with the faculty to fully integrate academic and clinical services for each student. Psychopharmacological services are available through McLean Hospital's Child and Adolescent Outpatient Service by request.

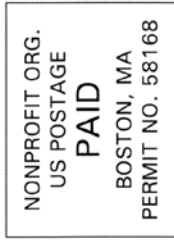


## Learn more

Pathways Academy invites parents and students to visit our school and to explore the array of educational and support services available in our program. For further information about Pathways Academy, please contact the Admissions Coordinator at 617.855.2843.

[www.cnspathwaysacademy.org](http://www.cnspathwaysacademy.org)

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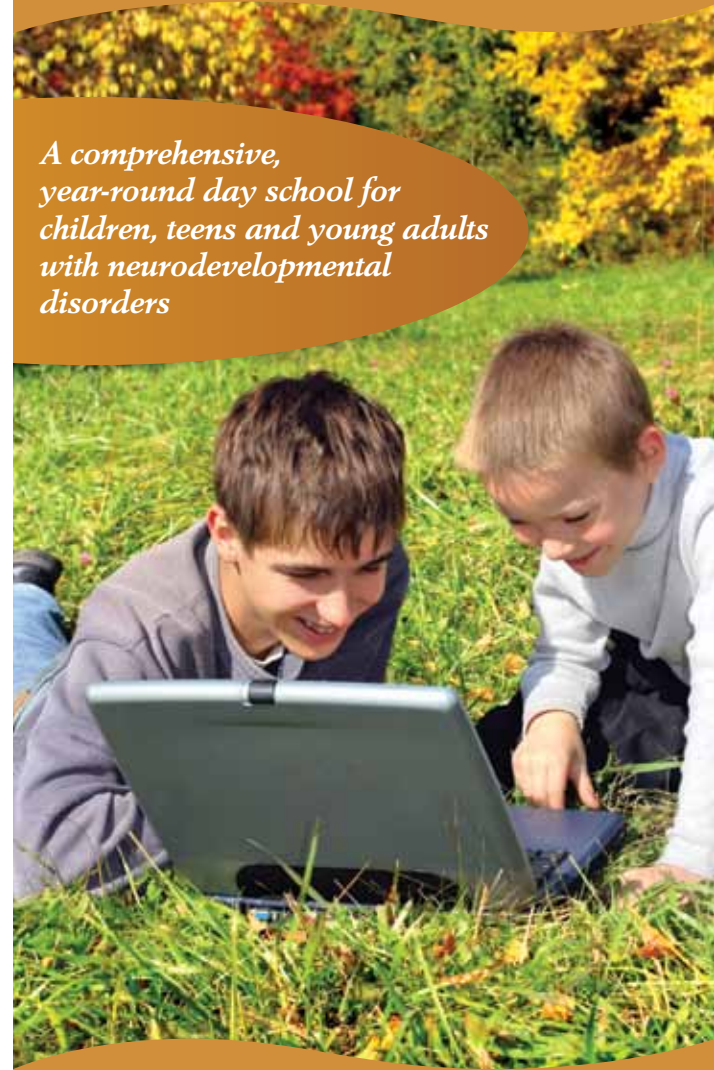
Center for Neurodevelopmental Services  
Pathways Academy  
115 Mill Street :: Belmont, MA 02478

U.S. News & World Report consistently ranks McLean Hospital the nation's top psychiatric hospital. McLean is the largest psychiatric facility of Harvard Medical School, an affiliate of Massachusetts General Hospital and a member of Partners HealthCare.



# Pathways Academy

A Sensory Friendly Learning Environment



*A comprehensive, year-round day school for children, teens and young adults with neurodevelopmental disorders*



## McLean Hospital

A HARVARD MEDICAL SCHOOL AFFILIATE

## Pathways Academy—integrating educational and clinical services

Pathways Academy is a year-round day school specializing in educating and treating children, teens and young adults ages 6 to 22 who have autism spectrum disorders, non-verbal learning disabilities and sensory processing disorders.

The developmentally based program serves the academic and clinical needs of each student, providing comprehensive integrated educational and therapeutic services within naturalistic group settings. Our educational and clinical services are based on a comprehensive assessment of each student's neuropsychological profile.

Pathways Academy interprets students' behaviors as a form of communication. We employ social pragmatics and social skills training in all of our programming.

Pathways Academy is part of the Center for Neurodevelopmental Services at McLean Hospital and is approved by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

## Our schedule

The school day runs throughout the year from **8:30 am to 2:30 pm on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays** and from **8:30 am to 12:30 pm on Wednesdays**.

Wednesday afternoons are typically reserved for individualized education plan (IEP) meetings, in-service training and clinical rounds, during which a multidisciplinary team convenes to discuss the psychoeducational needs of students.

## Who we serve

Our program benefits students with average or above-average cognitive and adaptive capabilities, but who may be struggling in school or not attending at all.

We also serve students who have:

- co-occurring psychiatric diagnoses, such as depression or anxiety;
- difficulty understanding social cues and a tendency to misunderstand and misinterpret social situations;
- significant challenges integrating their experiences and interactions in order to arrive at expected conclusions; and
- a reduced ability in specific social areas that lead to feelings of frustration, limited success and low self-esteem.

## Class size

Pathways classrooms are limited to four students. The student-to-staff ratio is two to one at all times, which allows for individualized academic instruction as needed. The curriculum is highly structured and language based.

## Enrollment

Enrollment applications are accepted throughout the year. There are no admission deadlines; however, classrooms fill up quickly.



## Specialized and individualized curriculum

Individualized education plans are created for every student. They are developed according to each student's academic, social and cognitive needs and in collaboration with the student, the family, the community treatment team (selected by the family) and the referring school system.

Key components of every student's curriculum include pragmatic language therapy, sensory integration, transition skills and academics. Preparation for vocational training and college are also provided. Additionally, we work to maintain congruency with the curriculum in each student's home community, while also preparing for opportunities to reintegrate students back into their school system, if appropriate.

As part of the 216-day school year, Pathways Academy includes a summer component with an emphasis on social pragmatic skills and opportunities for students to practice their social skills.

