



Highly Trained Staff

The Pathways staff consists of educators and clinicians who are familiar with the difficulties affecting children and adolescents with Asperger's Syndrome and other neurodevelopmental disorders. Specialists include a speech and language therapist, an occupational therapist, a clinical psychologist, a neuropsychologist and a child psychiatrist.

Each academic team of core subject teachers and assistants is overseen by a master's level educator with certification in special needs; teachers are also certified in special needs. Members of the clinical staff are supervised by the program director who works closely with the faculty to fully integrate academic and clinical services for each student.

About McLean Hospital

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.

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McLean Hospital
Center for Neurodevelopmental Services
Pathways Academy

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McLean Hospital
A Harvard Medical School Affiliate



Center for Neurodevelopmental Services (CNS)

Pathways Academy

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





Overview

Pathways Academy is a year-round day school, specializing in the treatment of children and young adults, ages 6 to 22, who have Asperger's Syndrome, non-verbal learning disabilities and other neurodevelopmental disorders. The developmentally based program integrates the clinical and academic needs of each student, while providing comprehensive therapeutic and educational services within naturalistic group settings. The school operates with the philosophy that all behaviors are a form of communication and in formulating treatment plans, assesses the origin of each child's individual behaviors.

Pathways Academy is a component of the Center for Neurodevelopmental Services at McLean Hospital and is approved by the Massachusetts Department of Education.

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 noon on Wednesdays. Wednesday afternoons are typically reserved for clinical rounds, during which a multidisciplinary team convenes to discuss the psychoeducational needs of each student.



Who Should Attend Pathways Academy?

Students who would benefit most from attending Pathways Academy include those who are struggling in, or simply not attending, school; but, who have average or above-average cognitive and adaptive capabilities. Additionally, students may have:

- co-occurring psychiatric diagnoses, such as depression and 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;
- a reduced ability in specific social areas that lead to feelings of frustration, limited success and low self-esteem.

Class Size and Enrollment

Pathways classrooms are typically limited to four students. The student-to-staff ratio is two to one at all times, which allows for individual academic instruction as needed.

The curriculum is highly structured and language based. There are no admission deadlines though classrooms fill up quickly. Enrollment applications are accepted throughout the year.

Successfully Combining Education and Treatment

The curriculum at Pathways is customized according to each student's academic, social and cognitive profile, and is developed in collaboration with the student, the family's community treatment team and the referring public school system. Community service providers are selected by the family and may include psychotherapists, pediatricians, psychopharmacologists, neurologists, nutritionists and educational advocates. Pragmatic language therapy and sensory integration are key components of every student's curriculum.

The educational team at Pathways strives to maintain the curriculum status of each student within his or her individual community, while preparing for inclusion opportunities if appropriate. Team members work closely with the student's family, school district and community service providers to ensure successful placement.

Pathways Academy includes a summer curriculum, consisting of an intensive emphasis on social pragmatic skills and opportunities for students to hone their social skills.

Learn More

For further information, please call 617.855.2847 or visit us at www.cnspathwaysacademy.org.

