

PERKINS SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND

175 North Beacon Street

Watertown, MA 02472

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Populations Served

Blind, Deaf, Deaf with Cochlear Implants, Developmentally Disabled, Hearing Impaired, Multiple Disabilities, Visually Impaired

School Profile

Enrollment: M/F
Age Range Served: 3 - 22
Age at Admission: 3 - 21
Program: Day/Residential
Staff/Pupil Ratio: varies according to need
of Months Open: 11
of Days Open: 205
Current Enrollment: 210

Admissions Procedure

Perkins School for the Blind admits students of all races, colors, creeds, nationalities and ethnic origins to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. Evaluations of prospective students are generally done at Perkins. Referral forms and other application information will be provided upon request and are available on the school's website.

Approval/Licensing/Accreditation

Licensed by the MA Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and as a group-care facility by the Department of Early Education and Care. Accredited by N.E. Assoc. of Colleges & Secondary Schools.

Affiliations/Membership

Member of **maaps**, NAIS, and COSB.

Programs and Services

Perkins School for the Blind serves students who are blind, visually impaired, and deafblind, including those with additional disabilities, in day or residential programs. On-campus programs include: Early Learning Center (ages 3-6), Lower School (ages 5-14), Secondary (ages 14-22), and Deafblind (ages 3-22). Academic classes and vocational readiness training are provided. Support services include health services, physical and occupational therapy, speech language, counseling, music therapy and social services. Programs focused in the community include Educational Partnerships, which provides services to students in public schools as well as early intervention to infants and toddlers. Outreach services include short courses on and off campus for students enrolled in public schools. Also located on campus are Perkins Products, the New England Eye Low Vision Clinic, the Perkins Library, Training and Educational Resource Program, New England Consortium for Deafblind Children, and Diagnostic Evaluation Services.

Location and Facilities

Perkins is located on a 38-acre campus near Watertown Square. There are 15 cottages with kitchen and living facilities; 4 buildings housing classrooms and administrative offices, and a historical museum; the Grousbeck Center for Students and Technology; Horticulture Center; health services building; facilities and stores building; staff residences; 4 gymnasiums; indoor swimming pool; indoor and outdoor tracks; library; and athletic fields. The campus overlooks the Charles River and has attractive and well-kept buildings and grounds.

History and Philosophy

Perkins School for the Blind was chartered in 1829 by the General Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts "for the purpose of educating blind persons." The school was moved to its present location in Watertown in 1912. Perkins accepts students from all states and foreign countries. Perkins School for the Blind is committed to providing education and services that build productive, meaningful lives for children and adults around the world who are blind, deafblind or visually impaired with or without other disabilities.