

WAYSIDE ACADEMY

1 Frederick Abbott Way
Framingham, MA 01701

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Populations Served

Attention Deficit Disorder, Behavioral Disorder, Mood Disorder, Depressive Disorder, Emotionally Disturbed, Pervasive Development Disorder (PDD), Asperger's, Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder

School Profile

Enrollment: M/F
Age range Served: 12- 20
Age at Admission: 12- 17
Program: Day/Residential
Staff/Pupil Ratio: Day 1:3; Residential: 1:3
of Months open: 12
of Days Open: Day: 180; Summer: 40;
Residential: 365
Current Enrollment: 28

Admissions Procedure

Wayside Academy, part of the *Wayside Youth and Family Support Network*, accepts applications throughout the year for placement in the day and residential program for adolescents diagnosed with a variety of mental health issues, behavioral challenges and learning difficulties. *Wayside Youth and Family Support Network* has the capacity to accept emergency and weekend admissions. Referrals are accepted from LEAs, parents, mental health agencies, social services agencies and other concerned parties. After the required material has been submitted to the Principal, an interview is arranged for the student, parents and any worker involved. Referral packets should be directed to the Principal of *Wayside Academy* at 1 Frederick Abbott Way, Framingham, MA 01701.

Approval/Licensing/ Accreditation

Approved by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, Department of Early Education and Care, Accredited by the Council on Accreditation (COA).

Affiliations/Membership

Council on Accreditation, Children's League of Massachusetts, Association for Behavioral Health, maaps.

Programs and Services

Wayside Academy offers comprehensive academic instruction in the core content areas, technology, art, physical education, health, vocational and post-secondary planning, and remedial support. Students benefit from an array of clinical services and behavioral interventions. Given the nature of the student population, physical management can be included in the behavior management protocol at *Wayside Academy*. The new facility and additional resources have strengthened alignment to the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks. Instruction is presented in small groups and individually to address the needs of the students. *Wayside*

Academy Summer Program provides academic, clinical and recreational activities within the highly structured milieu. The summer program includes students enrolled in *Wayside Academy* and students referred only for *Extended Year Services* on their IEP. *The 45 Day Interim Alternate Placement (IAP)* is designed to stabilize behavior within the context of a comprehensive therapeutic educational setting and provide information to assist the public school in developing an appropriate educational program for the student. Students placed at *Wayside IAP* benefit from the expertise of a multi-disciplinary team of professionals trained to assess academic, emotional and behavioral functioning. If requested by the referring school district, *Wayside* can complete comprehensive risk and safety assessments and evaluations as a supplemental contract. *Wayside Academy* offers: Alternative classroom or school for non-IEP students, behavioral management, behavioral treatment residence, mental health counseling, staff secure treatment residence, student diagnosis, evaluation and assessment, student short term assessment and stabilization, vocational training.

Location and Facilities

In April 2009 *Wayside Youth and Family Support Network* consolidated select programs and services and moved into a beautiful new facility at 1 Frederick Abbot Way in Framingham. Students attending *Wayside Academy* have access to spacious new classrooms, computer lab, art room, state of the art gymnasium and cafeteria. The space was designed to provide private space for counselors and safe, secure time-out areas that comply with all regulations and best professional practices. Residential students organized in *houses* and assigned private bedrooms, benefit from attractive living areas and access to kitchen facilities, library, and group rooms and dining area.

History and Philosophy

Waysides story began in 1977 when a group of citizens formed one of the first residences in New England for homeless youth--- Harbinger House. As the need for alternatives to orphanages, reform schools, and psychiatric hospitals grew, *Wayside* responded by expanding to include an array of services which support youth and families in the their community. *Wayside Academy* was founded in 1977 and approved as a Chapter 766 School to provide a therapeutic educational setting for students with complex emotional, behavioral and learning difficulties. Today, *Wayside Youth and Family Support Network* is one of Massachusetts' most respected child and family serving agencies. *Wayside Academy*, as part of the *Wayside* network, is dedicated to achieving the highest standards of quality and integrity in providing residential and educational services, leading edge counseling, and family support for building strength, hope and resiliency in each student and family.