



real

SCHOOL
TREATMENT
RECOVERY
RESULTS

DAYTOP

NEW JERSEY

POSITIVE INFLUENCES ♦ POSITIVE OUTCOMES

summary

Daytop New Jersey Academy is a non-sectarian, New Jersey state-licensed, special-education school providing an alternative educational experience for students in grades 7-12 who present with social, emotional, behavioral or substance use challenges that impact their academic achievement.

The school provides both self-contained and mainstream academic programs, individually customized to meet each student's strengths, needs and learning styles.

Located on a beautiful 26-acre campus in Mendham, NJ in a 35,000 sq. ft. education center, the Academy offers coursework focused on core academic areas, meeting all state special and general education requirements and taught by caring and engaged, state certified teachers.

The school also offers a positive, nurturing and supportive learning environment focused on character development, healing and recovery. Students receive individual and group counseling by our school psychologist, and are supported by our student assistance counselor.

The Daytop New Jersey Academy was the first and remains the only private recovery school in New Jersey, and maintains active membership in the Association of Recovery Schools.

mission

To provide quality educational services for students with a broad range of academic needs in a therapeutic, substance-free environment, while fostering an ethic of hard work, honesty and mutual respect, promoting accountability to oneself and the community, and helping prepare students to return to their home school, post-secondary education and/or job placement.

“In my dealing with inpatient programs, Daytop is the best — very thorough, very professional, you always give me what I need and you provide complete services for these kids. Your people know what they are doing.”
– NJ Probation Officer



licensure & professional affiliations

The Daytop New Jersey Academy is licensed by the New Jersey State Department of Education. Daytop New Jersey is accredited by The Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF). The Academy is a member of the Association of Recovery Schools, the National Association of Private Special Education Centers, ASAH, the Special Education Alliance of Northern NJ and the Character Education Partnership. Additionally, the principal/education director is a member of the NJ Association of Pupil Services Administrators and the NJ Association of School Administrators.



“DaytopNJ has helped me evolve and learn how to live my life in a healthier manner; a way in which I’d never thought was possible. Daytop for me was a second chance at life.” – Former Student

the team

With a capacity for 75 students, The Academy maintains class sizes of four to eight students. Students come from all walks of life across the state of New Jersey in both the day and residential programs.

The school’s team of professionals includes:

- Twelve certified teachers focused on their areas of expertise, with bachelors, masters and doctorate degrees
- State certified school psychologist (doctorate level)
- Student assistance counselor
- Student conduct advisor
- Transportation specialist, and

all faculty are supervised by the Principal/Director of Education, Erin Carrabba, a certified school administrator with six years experience in special education. She is also a certified harassment, intimidation and bullying (HIB) Specialist.



education & character development

The Academy follows a traditional school-year schedule with extended school-year scheduling during the summer. In addition to the full range of course offerings including grade level Math, Science, History, English, Health, Physical Education and Art, the Academy also offers facilitated foreign language training in Spanish, German, Latin and French using Rosetta Stone.

Academically, the curriculum is aligned with the NJ Core Curriculum Content Standards (NJCCCS) and teachers provide individual academic planning for each student. In collaboration with the student's home school district, the Academy supports work provided by the district and supplement it within the regular or special education curriculum.

All students attend school full-time (8:30 am - 2 pm) and are provided with lunch from a professionally trained culinary chef. Transportation is provided for students who live within a 15 mile radius of the Mendham campus. Transportation can be arranged for students who live farther away. Students have access to the latest

in educational technology including SMART boards, computer labs, laptops, and Kindle reading tablets.

On Fridays, students have the opportunity of spending more time in a program of particular interest, such as art, music, yoga, physical education or may participate in a wide range of community service projects. Additionally, once a month, Fridays are dedicated to hosting special motivational or inspirational speakers such as Steered Straight, Ryan's Story, and representatives from self-help and community-based organizations.

The student assistance counselor, in conjunction with personnel in the home school district's guidance office, assists students with college planning and preparation. Daytop New Jersey also has relationships with the recovery support communities at both The College of NJ and Rutgers University.



therapeutic services

The school psychologist at the Daytop New Jersey Academy provides individual and group therapy for each student in adherence to the student's IEP, in coordination with the student's therapist, treating clinician, outpatient program, and in collaboration with the home school district's professional staff (school psychologist, social worker, SAC). Daytop New Jersey can also provide a unique continuum of care through its outpatient treatment programs, should a student need intensive outpatient treatment services while also attending the academy. We may be able to provide transportation to our outpatient programs.

Examples of the types of groups offered at the academy include: female gender group, social skills, anti-bullying/dealing with bullies, character development and anger management. Additionally, Yoga and AA/NA groups are offered at least once weekly.

admission

Student referrals for admission to The Academy come from student service professionals (school psychologist,

social worker, student assistance counselor or director of special education services) as well as from other treating professionals, and parents or guardians. Students may enroll at any time during the school year (or summer program). The student's length of stay at the academy is based on his or her needs and progress, consistent with the recommendations of education and treatment professionals, along with input from parents and guardians.

Inquiries or referrals are welcomed. Please contact **Erin Carrabba, Principal** at ecarrabba@daytopnj.org or 973-543-5656, ext. 708

“The program at Daytop NJ, the staff and teachers have transformed me from an emotionally vacant alcohol and drug dependent teenager into a hard-working, intelligent, “normal” member of society who is going to Rutgers University with a future ahead of her. Who would have thought?” – Former Student



The following is a general guideline for assessing a student's match for The Academy. While no student fits these indicators perfectly, students well-suited for our education and therapeutic services usually possess a number of "good fit" characteristics.

"GOOD FIT" DAY STUDENTS:

- Middle school or high school student
- Experiencing difficulties with academics due to emotional, behavioral, motivational or learning issues
- Possible or diagnosed mood, anxiety, trauma, ADHD and/or learning disorder
- Classified in their home school district
- Need a smaller setting or a more personalized approach
- Benefit from being in a recovery focused, therapeutic school environment
- Stepping down from higher levels of treatment intervention and using the Day School experience as a transition back to their home high school

"CAUTIOUSLY CONSIDERED" STUDENTS:

- Significant/severe learning disabilities
- Significant social impairment as typically seen with students on the spectrum
- History of physical intimidation/bullying of others
- Explosive temper/anger management issues
- Persistent and recent eating issues or self-harm
- Law enforcement/court involvement
- History of serious suicidal attempts
- History and recent running away from home or school

"POOR FIT"/NOT APPROPRIATE STUDENTS:

- High School or GED graduate
- Physical violence, intimidation, or predatory behaviors against others
- Students needing more intensive or locked facilities, or may need physical restraint to ensure safety
- Students with moderate to serious spectrum disorder deficits, or mental illness
- History of fire setting/charged with arson
- Listed on the state registry as mandated by Megan's Law or history of committing sexual abuse

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– Former Student

"His school experience at Daytop has been so rewarding for him and we know how highly he thought of his teachers...Jose had been wonderful in giving him a sense that he could do Math, Kathleen was always available for some feedback, John made him write and gave him confidence...and all of them took the time out of their busy schedules to talk to me. You have a fantastic staff of teachers at Daytop."

– Parent of Daytop student

"Daytop is a great option when referring a student who is in need of substance abuse treatment but does not want to interrupt or compromise their academics. Daytop provides each student with the ability to turn the struggle with addiction into the triumph of sobriety while allowing them to remain a student who strives toward academic excellence. Daytop provides the highest quality of care and education."

– High School Student Assistance Counselor

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