Academy Nine
Application for Admission

For students applying in the sixth grade

Application Timeline (check each item as you complete the task)

- ☐ **Attend one Family Information Meeting** (October 21, October 31, November 14, November 18, December 2, December 16, and December 19)

- ☐ **By January 5, 2010:** Complete and return the following:
  - Family Questionnaire
  - Student Questionnaire
  - Three-paragraph essay

- ☐ **January 5, 2010:** Teacher Recommendations, transcript and test scores due to Steppingstone.

- ☐ **January 16, 2010:** Take the Steppingstone exam at Boston Latin Academy. Only students who complete the written application by January 5 will be invited to take the Steppingstone exam. Only those who take this exam will be considered for admission to Academy Nine.

- ☐ **February 2010:** Finalists notified by mail and invited to interview. Finalists are selected based on review of written application, teacher recommendation, grades and test scores.

- ☐ **February 2010:** Mandatory Finalists Meeting, required for all parents/guardians and finalists.

- ☐ **February – early March 2010:** Interviews for finalists. Both the student and a parent/guardian are required to attend.

- ☐ **April 2010:** Final admission decisions mailed.

- ☐ **May 2010:** New student orientation.

- ☐ **June 2010:** Summer Orientation.

- ☐ **July-August 2010:** First Summer Session for the Class of 2011.

If you have any questions or need additional copies of the application, please contact Devonda Witherspoon, at 617-423-6300, ext. 280 or dwitherspoon@tsf.org.

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Frequently Asked Questions

What is The Steppingstone Academy?
The Steppingstone Academy is a program of The Steppingstone Foundation, an educational non-profit founded in 1990. Academy Nine is Steppingstone's program designed for sixth and seventh graders to provide them with the tools to be successful in ninth grade and beyond.

Academy Nine consists of three components: Academic Preparation, ninth grade Placement, and Support Services. Academic Preparation and Placement make up the first 26 months. Support Services include tutoring, mentoring, workshops, and college counseling.

Who should apply to Academy Nine?
Motivated sixth graders who are hardworking, love to learn, want help accessing college, and are committed to attending one of our placement schools should apply. Applicants must be Boston residents and either have or be in the process of obtaining a U.S. citizenship or permanent residency status.

Does Academy Nine charge tuition?
Academy Nine is tuition-free. Families will be asked to contribute a small fee for summer transportation and t-shirts. If this contribution is a hardship for families, it can be waived upon request.

Can students apply for just one summer session?
No. When a family applies to Academy Nine, they make a commitment to attend <u>all three</u> summer sessions, Wednesday after-school and Saturday classes each week throughout the seventh and eighth-grade academic year. It is important that both families and students understand the time commitment involved before applying to Steppingstone.

How many students are accepted into Academy Nine?
Although we do not have a set number for each class, we hope to admit 30-40 students this year.

How are students selected for the program?
The admission process is divided into five parts: Written Application (Family Questionnaire, Student Questionnaire and Essay), Teacher Recommendations, School Report (includes grades and standardized test scores), Steppingstone Exam and Interview. Final decisions are made based on all of the admission components. We are looking for students who enjoy learning and challenging themselves, families and students who are committed to making Steppingstone a priority, and families who demonstrate a need for tuition-free college access programming and the opportunities provided by our placement schools.

Is transportation provided?
<u>Bus transportation is provided by Steppingstone for the summer sessions only.</u> Families are required to provide transportation for their students for the Wednesday after-school and Saturday classes during the seventh and eighth-grade years.

What are Academy Nine's placement schools?
Steppingstone works with a select group of independent schools, boarding schools, and public exam schools. All of our placement schools provide a rigorous, college-preparatory curriculum. All Academy Nine Scholars will apply to both independent schools and public exam schools. Please see the complete list of Academy Nine placement schools on the next page.

Does Steppingstone provide scholarships for students to attend independent schools?
No. Independent schools are privately funded and charge tuition annually. *Steppingstone does not provide scholarships*. Independent schools award financial aid according to family need. Steppingstone works with families to apply for financial aid. Most families receive some form of financial aid and many receive generous financial aid packages. Please note that all families are asked to contribute some amount of money towards their child's tuition.

Do students generally get into the school of their choice?
The Steppingstone staff works very hard with each Scholar and family to determine which schools would be a good fit for that Scholar. While admission to certain placement schools cannot be guaranteed by Steppingstone, most of our Scholars enroll at a placement school at which they are very happy.

Academy Nine

Academic Preparation and Placement: 26-Month Component

Summer of 2010	**Summer Session I** ***(before seventh grade)*** ▪ Six weeks, Monday through Friday (8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.)
School Year 2010-11	**Academic Year** ***(during seventh grade)*** ▪ Wednesday after-school classes (4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.) ▪ Classes on Saturday (9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.)
Summer of 2011	**Summer Session II** ***(after seventh grade)*** ▪ Six weeks, Monday through Friday (8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.)
School Year 2011-12	**Academic Year** ***(during eighth grade)*** ▪ Wednesday after-school classes (4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.) ▪ Classes on Saturday (9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.)
Summer of 2012	**Summer Session III** ***(after eighth grade)*** • Six weeks, Monday through Friday (8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.)

College Readiness

Grades 9-12	▪ Academic tutoring and mentoring ▪ College counseling services ▪ Workshops, conferences and social events with other Steppingstone Scholars
Spring 2016	Graduate from high school!
Fall 2016	Enroll in college!

Placement Schools for Ninth Grade

Independent Schools

Beaver Country Day School
Belmont Hill School
Boston College High School
Boston Trinity Academy
Boston University Academy
Brimmer and May School
Buckingham Browne & Nichols
Cambridge School of Weston
Commonwealth School
Concord Academy
Dana Hall School
Deerfield Academy
Dexter School
The Governor's Academy
Holderness School
Milton Academy
Newton Country Day School
Noble and Greenough School
Phillips Academy – Andover
Phillips Exeter Academy
The Rivers School
The Roxbury Latin School
St. Mark's School
St. Paul's School
St. Sebastian's School
The Southfield School
Thayer Academy
The Winsor School
Xaverian Brothers High School

Public Exam Schools

Boston Latin Academy
Boston Latin School
John D. O'Bryant School

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Founded in 1990, The Steppingstone Foundation is a non-profit organization that develops and implements programs that prepare Boston-area schoolchildren for educational opportunities that lead to college.

Based on the premise that, regardless of circumstance, children can achieve at high levels if they are prepared in a focused, demanding academic environment, Steppingstone programs emphasize rigorous standards and achieve meaningful results.

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Academy Nine is a division of The Steppingstone Academy, a program of The Steppingstone Foundation

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