Academy Seven
Application for Admission

For students applying in the fifth 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)

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

- ❑ **January 5, 2010:** Teacher Recommendation, 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 Seven.

- ❑ **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 call or email Shanna Masdea, at 617-423-6300, ext. 246 or smasdea@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 Seven is Steppingstone's program designed just for fifth graders to provide them with the tools to be successful in seventh grade and beyond.

Academy Seven consists of three components: Academic Preparation, seventh-grade Placement, and Support Services. Academic Preparation and Placement make up the first 14 months. Support Services include tutoring, mentoring, workshops, and college counseling programming through middle and high school.

Who should apply to Academy Seven?
Motivated fifth graders who are hardworking, love to learn, want help in 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 U.S. citizenship or permanent residency status.

Does Academy Seven charge tuition?
Academy Seven 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 The Steppingstone Academy, they make a commitment to attend both summer sessions and after-school and Saturday classes each week throughout the sixth-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 Seven?
Although we do not have a set number for each class, we admitted approximately 100 fifth-grade students last year, and hope to admit a similar number of students this year.

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

Is transportation provided?
Bus transportation is provided by Steppingstone for the summer sessions only. Families are required to provide transportation for their students for the after-school and Saturday classes during the sixth-grade year.

What are Academy Seven's placement schools?
All Academy Seven Scholars will apply to the public exam schools. Those families that are interested will also apply to independent schools. Steppingstone works with a select group of independent schools (please see the complete list of Academy Seven placement schools on the next page). All of our placement schools provide a rigorous, college-preparatory curriculum.

Does Steppingstone provide scholarships for students?
No. If your student gains admission to a public exam school, a scholarship or financial aid is not needed because the exam schools are publicly funded schools that do not charge tuition. Independent schools are privately funded and charge tuition annually. 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 a placement school cannot be guaranteed by Steppingstone, most of our Scholars enroll at a placement school at which they are very happy.

Academy Seven

Academic Preparation and Placement: 14-Month Component

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

College Readiness

Grades 7-12	▪ Academic tutoring and mentoring ▪ College counseling services ▪ Workshops, conferences and social events with other Steppingstone Scholars
Spring 2017	Graduate from high school!
Fall 2017	Enroll in college!

Placement Schools for Seventh Grade

Public Exam Schools

Boston Latin Academy
Boston Latin School
John D. O'Bryant School of Math and Science

Independent Schools

Beaver Country Day School
Belmont Day School
Belmont Hill School
Boston College High School
Boston Trinity Academy
Brimmer and May School
Buckingham Browne & Nichols
Dana Hall School
Dedham Country Day School
Derby Academy
Dexter School
Fay School
The Fessenden School
The Meadowbrook School of Weston
Newton Country Day School
Noble and Greenough School
The Park School
The Rivers School
The Roxbury Latin School
St. Sebastian's School
Southfield School
Thayer Academy
The Winsor 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 Seven is a division of The Steppingstone Academy, a program of The Steppingstone Foundation.

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