Steppingstone recruits Boston fourth and fifth grade students to participate in a program that provides the academic tools and social-emotional skills to be successful in middle school and high school, and the support to access, navigate and graduate from college. Steppingstone guides all students and families through the process of identifying and applying to a right-fit school. This includes independent schools - tuition-charging private schools that offer financial aid - and select Boston public schools, including the three Exam Schools which are public schools that require an entrance exam. Our program takes place over the summer and school year. Regardless of entry point, we make a 12+ year commitment to each student and family on their path to and through college!

99% graduate from high school
93% enroll in a four-year college
80% earn a Bachelor's degree within six years

Scholars have earned degrees from 180 different colleges

CONTACT US

4th GRADE
academy6@tsf.org
617-423-6300 ext. 246

5th GRADE
academy7@tsf.org
617-423-6300 ext. 233

TO APPLY AND SIGN UP FOR AN INFO SESSION

tsf.org/apply

@ The Steppingstone Foundation  facebook.com/steppingstonefoundation  youtube.com/SteppingstoneBoston
**ACADEMIC PREPARATION + SCHOOL ADMISSION**
*Summer 2021 - Summer 2023*

- **Academic Preparation:** Steppingstone's academic preparation component spans up to 26 months - 3 summers and 2 academic years - of intensive classes to prepare students academically and socially for admission to challenging middle and high schools in the Boston area.

- **School Admission:** Steppingstone guides all students and families through the process of identifying and applying to a right-fit school. This includes independent schools - tuition-charging private schools that offer financial aid - and select Boston public schools, including the three Exam Schools which are public schools that require an entrance exam.

| SUMMER I  
(before 5th grade) | SUMMER II  
(before 6th grade) | SUMMER III *  
(before 7th grade) |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| ACADEMIC YEAR I  
(5th grade) | ACADEMIC YEAR II*  
(6th grade) |                           |

*Participation in Academic Year II and Summer III depends on 6th grade admission results. We ask that families be open to attending the full 26 months.

**Summer Schedule**
- Classes Monday-Friday from 8:15 a.m.-3:30 p.m.*
- Six weeks
- July through mid-August
- Milton Academy
- *Program times subject to change*

**Academic Year Schedule**
- Classes on Wednesday from 4:25-6:30 p.m.*
- Classes on Saturday from 8:45 a.m.-3:30 p.m.*
- Duration of school year
- Boston Latin Academy and/or Donald McKay
- *Program times subject to change*

**SUPPORT SERVICES**
*Middle and high school*

**GRADUATION!**
*Spring 2029!*

**COLLEGE SERVICES**
*Through college graduation*

- **Support Services:** Students attend college readiness workshops and conferences and receive one-on-one advising, tutoring, mentoring, discounted SAT classes, and guidance from Steppingstone staff in completing college and financial aid applications. These services begin in either sixth grade, if Scholars choose to attend an independent school, or in seventh grade and continue through high school.

- **College Services:** Scholars receive support transitioning to college and throughout their undergraduate career, including pre-college support programs, financial aid counseling, advising, internship and job search support, and connections to the Steppingstone Alumni network.
Steppingstone Admission Timeline

The journey starts here!
We look forward to meeting you and your student.

Attend a Family Information Session
October - December

Interested students and families are encouraged to attend a family information session to learn more about our program and admission process.

Start an Application
October - December

Our online application can be found on our website www.tsf.org/apply

There are three parts to our application:

Part I: Applicant Information  
Part II: Family & Student Short Responses  
Teacher Recommendation

Application Deadline
January 6, 2021

All components of the application are due on January 6, 2021.

Finalist Stage: Interview & Exam
February - March 2021

Finalist students and families are invited to interview with Steppingstone Staff. Interviews take place throughout the months of February & March. Finalist students will take the Steppingstone exam in mid-February.

Steppingstone Decision
April 2021

Finalists are notified if they’ve been accepted. Accepted students begin their first summer July 2021.
Virtual Family Information Sessions

We ask that all interested families attend ONE session or watch a recorded version on our website. Please attend the live session via Zoom or watch the recording *with your student*.

**TO REGISTER FOR A SESSION, GO TO**

**TSF.ORG/APPLY**

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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS
4th Grade

IS STEPPINGSTONE A SCHOOL?
No. We are an academic program that meets in the summer and after-school. We guide all students and families through the process of identifying and applying to a right-fit school. This includes independent schools - tuition-charging private schools that offer financial aid - and select Boston public schools, including the three Exam Schools which are public schools that require an entrance exam.

WHO SHOULD APPLY TO STEPPINGSTONE?
Motivated fourth-grade students who live in the City of Boston, who love to learn, are ready for an academic challenge, want help accessing college, and are interested in exploring school options that will support them on the path to college.

HOW MUCH DOES STEPPINGSTONE COST?
There is an $80 fee each summer, which can be reduced or waived if it is a hardship for your family.

WHAT IS THE TIME COMMITMENT?
Fourth-grade Scholars and their families must make a commitment of up to 26 months if they are admitted to the program. The program consists of up to three summer sessions where students attend classes Monday-Friday (7:45 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.*) for six weeks. The summer sessions take place the summer before fifth, sixth and seventh grade. The program also consists of up to two academic year sessions with classes on Wednesdays (4:25 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.*) and Saturdays (8:45 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.*) taking place during fifth and sixth grade. Participation in the second academic year and third summer depends on students’ sixth-grade admission results.
*Program times are subject to change.

WHERE DOES STEPPINGSTONE MEET?
Traditionally, Steppingstone's summer classes are held at Milton Academy (Milton, MA) and academic year classes on Wednesdays are held at either Boston Latin Academy (Dorchester, MA) or the Donald McKay K-8 School (East Boston, MA). Saturday classes are at Boston Latin Academy only. The McKay site is only an option for fourth-grade students. Bus transportation is available during the summer but not the school year.

HOW ARE STUDENTS SELECTED FOR THE PROGRAM?
The admission process includes:
• Online application (consisting of demographic information and short responses for the family and student)
• Teacher recommendation (including most recent report card)
• A supplemental independent school application for families interested in considering admission to independent schools
• Interview and an exam for finalists

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.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF SENDING MY CHILD TO A PUBLIC EXAM OR INDEPENDENT SCHOOL?
At these schools, students share a desire to excel in school and go to college. The resources, teachers, extracurricular opportunities and support offered prepare students for the rigor of college and nearly all of the graduates go on to pursue a four-year degree.

DOES STEPPINGSTONE PROVIDE SCHOLARSHIPS FOR STUDENTS ATTENDING INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS?
Independent schools are a type of private school that 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 aid packages. Please note that all families are asked to contribute some amount of money towards their child’s tuition at an independent school.

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER MY STUDENT COMPLETES THE 26-MONTH ACADEMIC PREPARATION COMPONENT?
Your student will continue to participate in Steppingstone through middle school, high school and college. Your student will have access to a Steppingstone Advisor, tutoring and mentoring, discounted SAT classes, college readiness workshops and conferences, college and financial aid application support, internship and job guidance, and connections to the Steppingstone Alumni network.