Since 1953, pediatric patients have been provided with the opportunity to continue his or her academic progress while undergoing treatment at the Clinical Center of the National Institutes of Health through the services of the NIH Children’s School.

The NIH Children’s School is funded by the Federal government and is available free of charge to Clinical Center pediatric patients, who are patients in grades kindergarten through 12. The School is staffed by teachers from the Home and Hospital Instruction Office of the Montgomery County Public School system of Maryland. The primary goal is to maintain the continuity of education for each pediatric patient.

**How do I reach the school?**
- Location: Hatfield Clinical Research Center, room 1-1679, on the 1NW pediatric ward.
- Telephone: 301-496-2077
- Fax: 301-480-3727
- E-mail: sch@mail.nih.gov or the School’s Director, fuchsmusgravejl@cc.nih.gov

**Who may attend?**
All pediatric patients, both inpatient and outpatient at the NIH Clinical Center are offered instruction. This includes patients in regular K-12 education programs, special education programs, General Educational Development (GED) candidates and patients preparing for college admission examinations. Patients who are non-English speakers are offered instruction in English as a Second Language (ESL) studies.

All pediatric patients are offered instruction; including those residing at the Children’s Inn other sponsored residences, or in private accommodations.

**Where do patients receive instruction?**
Teachers are prepared to provide instruction in the NIH Children’s School classroom, located in room 1-1679 on the pediatric 1NW area, or in the patient's room. Typically, each patient receives 60 to 90 minutes each weekday (Mon. to Fri.) on a one-on-one basis with his or her teacher. While every effort is made to establish and maintain a regular instruction schedule, medical treatment schedules are always the main priority.

**How do students enroll in the NIH Children’s School?**
Pediatric patients enroll in the NIH Children’s School by making a request to the social worker, nurse, or physician, who will then contact the School’s Director. The patient or his or her caregivers may also contact the NIH School directly by visiting the School or by phone, fax, or e-mail.
Patients and his or her caregivers will be contacted by the NIH Children’s School Director about educational needs shortly after admission.

**When is the NIH Children’s School open?**
- School classroom hours: Weekdays 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., with extended hours available at request.
- School Office hours: Weekdays 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The School calendar generally follows the Montgomery County Public Schools’ schedule for the opening and closing of the school year and Holiday breaks. All other holidays and emergency closings follow the Federal Government policy.

**Does the NIH Children’s School cover the same subjects as the patient’s home school?**
The primary goal of the NIH Children’s School is to assist each pediatric patient to maintain academic continuity and progress with his or her home school program. The teacher assigned to the patient will contact the home school for assignments and other information needed during the patient’s stay at the Clinical Center.

Preferably, patients bring textbooks and assignments from their home school when they come to the Clinical Center. However, NIH teachers will work with the home school to facilitate materials, and when necessary, are able to create a curriculum, based on the Montgomery County Public School system.

**How do patients get credit for School attendance during their hospital stays?**
The patient’s home school typically recognizes attendance at the NIH Children’s School, completed assignments and exam results. Arrangements may be made for exams to be administered by a NIH teacher.

Upon discharge, a statement of attendance and progress or grade report is given to each patient, with a copy submitted to the home school.

We look forward to working with you!