

NIH Clinical Center Patient Education Materials

NIH Children's School

Since 1953, the NIH Children's School has ensured that pediatric patients at the NIH Clinical Center can continue their academic studies while participating in clinical research.

The NIH Children's School is funded by the Federal government and is free for all NIH Clinical Center pediatric patients in grades kindergarten through 12. The school is staffed by teachers from the Interim Instructional Services of the Montgomery County Public School system of Maryland. The primary goal is to maintain the continuity of education for each pediatric patient.

School contact information

- Location: Hatfield Clinical Research Center, room 1-1679, on the 1NW pediatric unit
- Telephone: 301-496-2077
- Fax: 301-480-3727
- E-mail: school@nih.gov

Who may attend?

The NIH Children's Schools offers instruction to pediatric patients, both inpatient and outpatient, including those residing at The Children's Inn, other sponsored residences, or in private accommodations. Patients in regular K-12 education programs, patients in special education programs, General Educational Development (GED) candidates, and patients preparing for college admission examinations can all utilize the School. The School also offers English as a Second Language (ESL) classes.

Where do patients receive instruction?

Teachers provide instruction in the NIH Children's School classroom, located in room 1-1679 on the 1NW pediatric unit, or in the patient's room. Typically, each patient receives 60 to 90 minutes each weekday (Monday to Friday) on a one-on-one basis with his or her teacher. While every effort is made to establish and maintain a regular class schedule, medical treatment schedules are always the main priority.

How do students enroll in the NIH Children's School?

Pediatric patients can enroll in the NIH Children's School by making a request to a social worker, nurse, or physician. The patient or his or her caregiver(s) may also visit the School or contact the School directly by phone, fax, or e-mail. The NIH Children's School Director will contact the patient and his or her caregiver(s) about educational needs shortly after admission into the School.

When is the NIH Children's School open?

- School classroom hours: Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., with extended hours available upon request
- School office hours: Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The School calendar generally follows the Montgomery County Public Schools' schedule for the beginning and end 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 in maintaining 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 NIH Clinical Center.

Preferably, patients bring textbooks and assignments from their home schools when they come to the NIH Clinical Center. However, NIH teachers will work with the home school to receive materials, and, when necessary, teachers 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?

Most patients’ home schools recognize attendance at the NIH Children’s School, completed assignments, and exam results. Arrangements can be made for exams to be administered by an NIH teacher. Upon discharge from the NIH Clinical Center, a statement of attendance and progress or grade report is given to each patient, with a copy submitted to the home school.

Please contact Bridget Moore, bmoore@cc.nih.gov, for any issues or concerns regarding the services provided by the NIH Children’s School.

We look forward to working with you!

This information is prepared specifically for persons taking part in clinical research at the National Institutes of Health Clinical Center and may not apply to patients elsewhere. If you have questions about the information presented here, talk to a member of your health care team.

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[Questions about the Clinical Center?](#)

