



# Pilgrim Area Collaborative

CONNECTING SCHOOL - HOME - COMMUNITY

## PILGRIM ACADEMY

Pilgrim Academy is a small, structured, therapeutic school for students in grades five through twelve experiencing significant social and emotional behavioral difficulties. The goal of placement is to assist students in re-establishing and maintaining typical adolescent responsibilities, such as: consistent school attendance, appropriate emotional regulation, effective interpersonal skills, and consistent completion of school work.

Pilgrim Academy provides a challenging academic curriculum consistent with the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education state mandated curriculum frameworks. The curriculum is individualized to meet each student's needs as outlined in his/her Individualized Education Program (IEP).

Class sizes are small, with a high staff to student ratio, to maximize success. The program utilizes a structured therapeutic approach through which preferred and improved social and emotional functioning are highlighted and acknowledged.

Pilgrim Academy works strenuously to educate students in the least restrictive environment possible.

Counseling services are provided to assist students in countering the problems that have been disruptive to their educational and personal success. The school offers students an opportunity for psychological, academic, and personal growth. Academic abilities range from above average to slightly below average.

Student progress is more evident when families are involved. Pilgrim Academy recognizes that parents are vital to the learning process and as such we welcome and encourage family involvement. Support to parents, family members and/or caregivers is provided and designed to allow for active participation in the educational and therapeutic process utilizing their unique knowledge of the problems affecting their child.

Pilgrim Academy classrooms are designed for students in grades 5-12 with a primary diagnosis of an emotional disability. Students referred to Pilgrim Academy often have mental health needs that have been, or continue to be, addressed in a variety of inpatient and outpatient settings.

Clinical services are provided to support students in their efforts to improve emotional regulation and functioning. In addition, school clinicians also maintain regular contact with families, consult and collaborate with outside mental health agencies, and act as a liaison with student and family mental health providers.

Additional classrooms are designed for students in grades 5-12 with a primary diagnosis of high functioning autism spectrum disorder, non-verbal learning disability, and/or executive functioning difficulties with co-existing social and emotional challenges. To maximize success, students are provided with counseling, a daily, integrated Social Thinking™ curriculum, social pragmatics, speech and language therapy, occupational therapy, sensory integration support, life skills, and transitional services.