

# About Salem Prep High School

Salem Prep High School is an approved public day school by Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. The mission of Salem Prep High School is to provide a therapeutic milieu offering all enrolled students the opportunity to develop independence, self-control, and responsibility for self and others. Salem Prep provides a safe learning environment that builds trust, life skills, self-confidence, self-respect, and sense of community through positive peer reinforcement.

Salem Prep is an intensive therapeutic support program that is an off-site extension of the Therapeutic Support Program housed at Salem High School. The TSPI program promotes the development of emotional stability and prosocial skills in a small highly structured therapeutic milieu. A therapeutic milieu is a structured group setting in which the existence of the group is a key force in the outcome of treatment. Using the combined elements of positive peer pressure, trust, safety and repetition, the therapeutic milieu provides an idealized setting for group members to work through their psychological issues. Students in the program meet the general high school graduation requirements while developing transitional skill for independent living, school to college, or school to careers transitions.

The Salem Prep High School program serves students with social/emotional, behavioral, and other learning related disabilities who have been unsuccessful in other less restrictive learning environments within public high school setting. The Team determines if the lack of effective progress necessitates a specialized public day school placement.

Students who attend Salem Prep High School range in ages from 14 to 22 years-old in grades 8-12. Students are assigned to classes toward meeting the high school graduation requirements. Classes are divided by grade 8, freshman (9), sophomore (10), junior (11), and senior (12). Students are placed in classes with no more than 4-year span between the oldest and youngest student.

Ideally students should finish high school in four years. However, some students enroll with gaps in their education or high school credits. In addition to taking 7 courses a year, students have the opportunity for credit recovery through a computer based program or through independent coursework designed by content area teachers.

Students in the program can meet the general high school graduation requirements of 24 credits. Students must also pass the state required MCAS for ELA, Math, and Biology to receive a high school diploma. Students who do not pass the MCAS are always encouraged to come back to school and prepare for the MCAS. These students are still eligible for a Certificate of Completion.

Students who complete their high school education at Salem Prep and meet all graduation requirements as noted above, are eligible to receive a Salem High School diploma and may participate in all graduation activities at Salem High School.

