

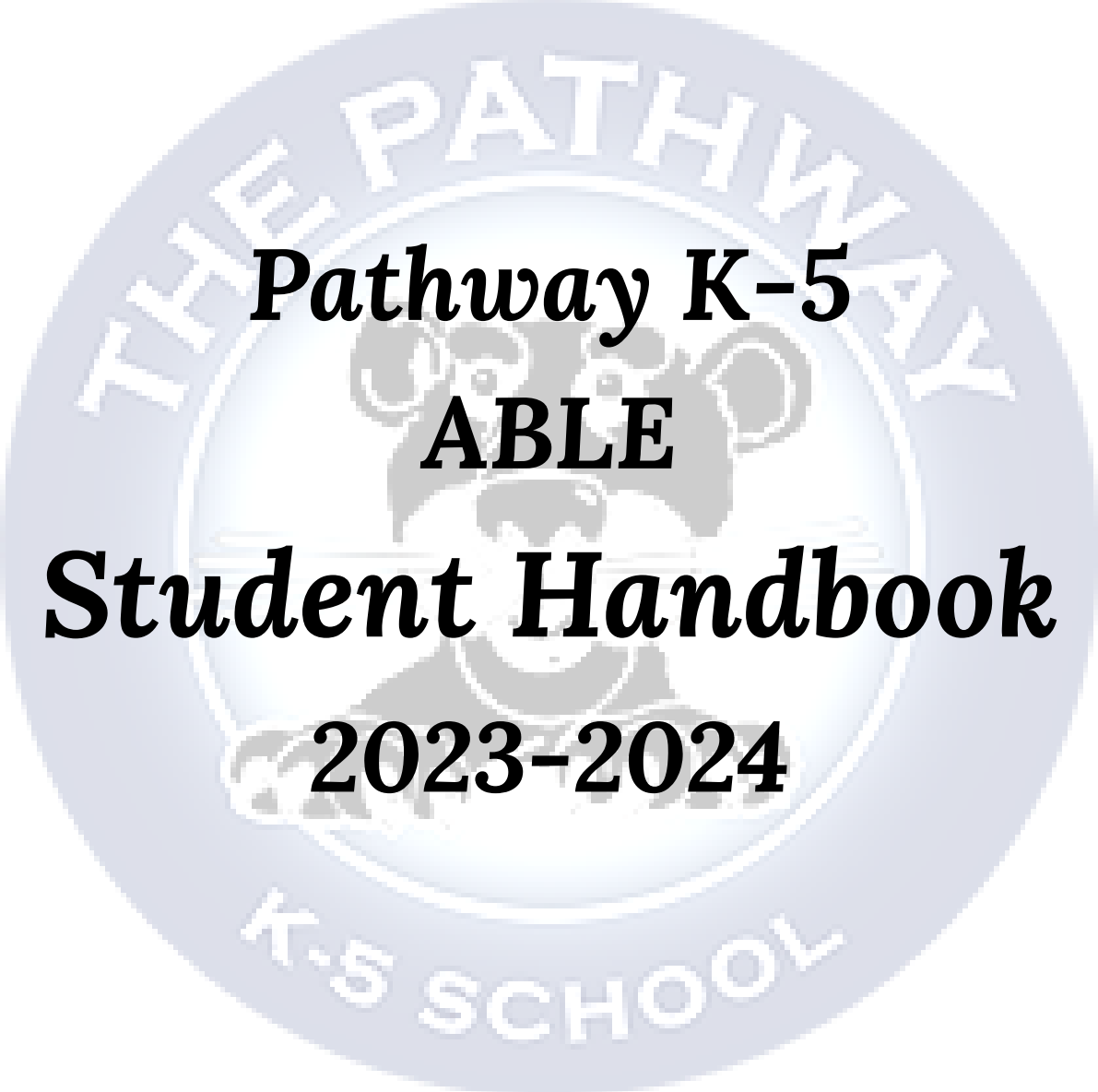


PATHWAY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

957 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue

Mobile, AL 36603

Kirsten Glover, Administrator

A large, light blue circular watermark seal is centered on the page. It features a tiger's head in the center, surrounded by the text "THE PATHWAY" at the top and "K-5 SCHOOL" at the bottom.

Pathway K-5
ABLE
Student Handbook
2023-2024



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Chresal D. Threadgill

Administration of Pathway K-5

Kirsten Glover, Administrator



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Vision:

The vision of Pathway Elementary School is to provide every child with a safe, secure, and loving environment in which to learn.

Mission:

The mission of Pathway K5 is to ensure every child receives an equitable education, maintains positive relationships, and meets their daily goals.

Symbol:

“Panthers”

Pathway Positive Statement

I believe I can do anything I set my mind to do.

I can reach my goal.

I can follow directions.

I can control my behavior.

I can change my mindset.

I can reach my potential.

I am an achiever.

And I believe I can do anything!

Colors:

Navy Blue and Khaki



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Dear Parents,

Welcome to Pathway K-5 for the 2023-2024 school year. Our goal is to make sure each student reaches their full potential daily, by providing explicit instruction and preparing engaging activities tailored to decrease classroom distractions.

We believe that all students can learn. Therefore, it is our commission to employ certified and qualified personnel that will continue our mission yearly.

Pathway K-5 is not just an alternative school, we serve autistic students as well. The Pathway Team ensures our students are familiar with and can readily access the latest technology and learning resources that will decrease behaviors and increase knowledge.

We welcome you back to another great year of REACHING GOALS!!

Thanks,

Pathway Administration



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Uniform Policy

Shirts: Navy polo style shirt with collar (no logos). Shirts must be tucked in at all times. Undershirts may be white, gray, or navy blue only. All other color shirts will be removed before the student is allowed through check-in.

Pants: Khaki uniform pants or shorts only. No jeans, cargo/painter pants, bell bottoms, stretch pants or corduroy material are acceptable. The pants should be worn at the natural waistline. The bottom of the pants should come to the top of the uniform shoe. Pants must be hemmed, not rolled or folded. **Skirts are not ALLOWED Skorts are allowed! Please do not wear two or more pairs of shorts, tights, or pants under uniform pants.**

Belt: Black or brown solid color and must be worn at waist level. The belt must be the appropriate size and not hang down below the waist.

Socks: White, navy, gray or black solid colored crew socks only.

Shoes: Tennis shoes ONLY. Shoes may not light up, make sounds, or have wheels.

Sweatshirt: (inside building): Black, Navy, or Grey sweatshirt or waist length sweater, (no hoods or logos). No oversized or mid-length sweaters or sweatshirts are allowed. Collar of the uniform shirt must be visible at all times.

Outerwear: Winter Coats may be worn to and from school that do not meet uniform standards. However, they will be stored upon arrival at school. *It is strongly recommended that all articles of clothing be marked on the inside with a permanent marker to identify the owner.* All winter gloves, hats, and scarves will also be stored until dismissal. **Please remember NO HOODIES!! (exceptions winter coats)**

Jewelry: NO JEWELRY!! No hoop or dangling style earrings, no body piercings, grills, or tattoos. No wristwatches, bracelets, rings, or necklaces are allowed. Make-up, fingernail polish and false fingernails are not allowed.

Prohibited accessories: No hats, sweatbands, skullcaps, bandannas, or chained wallets. Sunglasses are not allowed. These items will be confiscated.

Book bags: Purses are not allowed but a book bag is allowed only for the ABLE unit. **Guidelines for hair:** No hair rollers, combs, brushes, wraps or picks should be brought or worn to school. No designs, lines, patterns, letters, numbers, or symbols are to be cut into the hair or eyebrows. No extreme hair colors are allowed (blue, green, fire red etc.). No ribbons or bows allowed in the hair except navy blue or white. No oversized hair adornments are allowed.

Conclusion: The administration is the final authority on the appropriateness of uniform dress in the local school.

Orientation takes place on Tuesday's for the ABLE Unit and Thursday's for the Alternative Unit, at 9:00, 10:00, 11:00, and 12:00.



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ARRIVAL /DISMISSAL PROCEDURES

Breakfast is provided in the classroom from 7:20 a.m.- 7:45 a.m. daily. Parents should not arrive at school before 7:20 a.m. Your students must remain with you in the car until 7:20 a.m.

School begins promptly at 7:20 a.m. Students should be in their classroom ready to learn before the tardy bell.

Students arriving after the tardy bell at **7:50 a.m. must** check-in at the front office **by a parent or guardian**. The parent or guardian must come to the main entrance and notify the office. Parents should make an effort to have students arrive on time. It is disrupting the classroom and the instructional process when students are tardy. We encourage all students to be in their classroom by **7:45 a.m. ready to learn**.

Teachers are officially on duty from 7:20 a.m. to 2:20 p.m. Although the staff spends many extra hours beyond these times on campus, we may not be aware of or responsible for children on the grounds. School dismisses at 2:20 p.m. daily. Students are expected to remain at school all day. No early dismissals or drop offs after 12:00 p.m.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Truancy

Definition: Alabama Department of Education Prevention and Support Services- (May 2004)

A parent, guardian, or other person having charge of any child officially enrolled in Alabama public schools (K-12) shall explain in writing the cause of any and every



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absence of the child no later than **three (3) days** following return to school. A failure to furnish such explanation shall be evidence of the child being truant each day he/she is absent.

The child shall also be deemed truant for any absence determined by the principal to be unexcused based upon the State Department of Education's current School Attendance Manual. Five (5) unexcused absences within a school year constitute a student being truant for the purpose of filing a petition with the Court.

Tardiness

Please remember that when students are tardy, they are missing classroom instruction. A child arriving late for school must be accompanied by their parent/guardian.

Health Room

We are only permitted, by state law, to administer medication that has been prescribed by a physician. Forms are available in the office and must be completed before medication can be administered. Directions on medications and forms must have the same information or the medicine will not be administered. Over the counter medication must also be labeled with the physician's instructions and accompanied by a doctor's prescription and other forms required by the school.

Each teacher will send students to the office to receive medication prescribed by a physician. **Students should never have medications on their person or in their possession.** This is a violation of the MCPSS Student Code of Conduct. It is also unsafe for our students. ***Please notify the school immediately of phone/address changes during the school year. In case of an emergency, the school must have the phone number of someone to contact at all times.***



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Autism and Behavioral Learning Extension (ABLE)

Program overview

The Autism and Behavioral Learning Extension is a special program of Mobile County Public School System located at Pathway K-5 Elementary School. The program is designed for students with autism who exhibit challenging behaviors that makes it difficult for them to be successful in their home school. Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) has been proven to be an effective treatment for students with autism; therefore, all staff will be trained to use ABA principals when delivering instruction and/or when implementing behavior techniques in the classroom. Family training will be offered, and strongly encouraged, for all family members who take an active role in the student's life. A Board-Certified Behavior Analyst will supervise all behavioral services being provided at the program.

Student Enrollment

A referral to the ABLE program can be submitted at any time during the school year. Referrals should be made for students who engage in severe behavior such as aggression to others, aggression to property, and/or self-injurious behavior. Other behaviors of concern will be observed and considered on an individual basis.

The student will be observed by a Mobile County Public School Behavior Analyst or a Teacher from the ABLE program and reviewed by a screening committee to ensure that changes to the student's school placement are the most appropriate and least restrictive option. The ABLE program is an IEP Team Based Decision for Placement.



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Family Involvement

The ABLÉ program recognizes that parent involvement is key to the student's overall success. The ABLÉ program encourages parents to get involved in their student's program development. Training on Applied Behavior Analysis techniques will be available to all interested family members of students in the program.

Intake/Orientation Meeting

An intake meeting will be scheduled with the referring school, parent, student, Central Office Special Education Resource Teacher for the referring school, and a representative(s) from Pathway K-5. The team will discuss the services provided in the ABLÉ program, a proposed start date, and make any necessary changes to the student's Individualized Educational Plan (IEP). The parent will receive a parent handbook and any assessment forms that may need to be completed.

Crisis Management

Behavioral techniques will be utilized to reinforce appropriate behavior and re-direct maladaptive behaviors. In situations where a student cannot be verbally de-escalated and there is immediate, imminent risk of the student harming himself or others, Professional Crisis Management techniques will be utilized. Only certified personnel will implement the procedures and every effort will be made to end the restraint at the earliest time it is safe to do so. The restraint will be documented, and the parent will be notified every time a restraint is used.



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BEHAVIOR STRATEGIES USED AT PATHWAY ARE CPI AND FCM

What is CPI?

CPI is a strategy used for crisis prevention for a wide variety of people, including those with autism spectrum disorders. CPI can best be described as non-violent crisis intervention training designed to teach best practices for managing difficult situations and disruptive behaviors in children with autism. Behavior therapists or registered Behavior Technicians (RBTs) learn how to identify at-risk individuals and use nonverbal and verbal techniques to defuse hostile behavior. This type of training not only ensures the utmost safety of the children at our school but also the safety of our Staff.

There are a huge number of benefits when it comes to using CPI strategies. These are the most notable.

Teaches staff to recognize and respond to a crisis appropriately: CPI teaches our staff imperative decision-making skills to effectively match their response to the level of risk in the crisis. They learn to focus on the least restrictive response to ensure crises are de-escalated with as little fuss as possible. They are taught how to recognize the different stages of an escalating crisis and how to use evidence-based techniques to de-escalate.

Safe physical intervention as a last resort: Staff are trained to respond appropriately to the level of risk. Sometimes de-escalation strategies don't work, and the risk requires physical intervention. CPI teaches staff the best physical intervention strategies to ensure as little trauma as possible.

It's fully accredited: CPI is an evidence-based training program that is also fully accredited. The training is reviewed bi-annually to ensure all interventions are up to international standards.



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PCM

PCM (Professional Crisis Management) is a form of crisis management that focuses largely on prevention before a crisis happens and not after individuals have become non-compliant or aggressive. PCM includes Crisis Prevention, De-escalation, Intervention, and Post-Crisis Intervention components to ease situations. To become certified, “hands on” training and written tests are required to reach the skill attainment.

Progress Reviews

Behavioral and/or academic assessments and baseline data will be started as soon as the student begins the program. An IEP meeting will be scheduled within 30 -45 days of entrance to the program to discuss the student’s behavioral intervention plan. The behavior review committee will then meet quarterly to discuss each student’s progress and determine if the student will remain in the program or start the transition back to the home school. The ultimate goal of the program is to stabilize behavior, determine the most effective behavioral strategies, and get the student back into his/her home school as soon as possible.

Transition Process

When a student in the ABLÉ program meets his/her behavioral goals, an IEP meeting will be held with the IEP team members at the ABLÉ program and the student’s home school. The team will create a transition plan that will help the student transition back to his/her home school as smoothly as possible. Training will be provided by the ABLÉ program to the home school for all staff interested.

Hours of Operation

The ABLÉ program will be open Monday-Friday from 7:20-2:20 on the campus of Pathway K-5. The ABLÉ program will follow Mobile County Public School’s school calendar for closings. Bus transportation will be provided for all students regardless of the location of his/her home school. If a parent visits the ABLÉ



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program for any reason (to drop off a student, early dismissal, etc.) he/she must sign in at the main office. Proper identification will be checked, and an unauthorized person will not be allowed to check out a student. Changes to a student's transportation arrangements must be made in writing. Also, if a student is dropped off, the student must be left in the supervision of a Pathway K-5 employee before the supervising adult leaves the premises.

Meals and Snacks

Breakfast and lunch will be provided for all students. Parents are asked to provide one snack for the student to have during the school day.

Miscellaneous Information

All students will follow Mobile County Public School's attendance policy, illness policy, and medication regulations. The ABLE program will close for severe weather any time that MCPSS is closed.

School-Wide Rules:

1. Maintain a quiet atmosphere conducive to learning.
2. Care for the property of the school, others and yourself.
3. Respect yourself and others.
4. Keep hands, feet and objects to yourself.

School Wide Procedures

1. Walk quietly on the right side of the hallway, keeping hands and feet to yourself.
2. Transitions are to be orderly and all students should be on zero level noise. (Take-In, Restroom Breaks, and Dismissal)



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- 3.. All voices are quiet(if applicable), and attention is given during announcements.
4. When an adult raises 1 finger this signal is for talking to be a soft whisper.

Parent Involvement

Parents are strongly encouraged to take an active part in their child's education.

Parental input is necessary and actively sought through both formal and informal means. Parents should understand, however, that the operation of the school is the responsibility of the school personnel.

By enrolling your child in Pathway K-5 Elementary School and by signing the Parent Compact and Parent Contract, you have provided your child with an opportunity to receive an excellent education. In addition, parents have accepted the responsibility to provide the appropriate encouragement, guidance, and home environment to foster the most helpful learning situation possible.

Parents should uphold our school philosophy in the following ways:

- Be sure your student is on time to school each day
- Be sure not to arrive prior to 7:20 a.m.
- Be sure your student is in uniform daily.
- Be sure to follow the school rules