


The Bradley School

**WHERE CHILDREN WITH COMPLEX
LEARNING AND BEHAVIORAL
CHALLENGES GET THE HELP THEY NEED
TO *heal, learn, AND grow.***





*Child health researchers project that COVID-19 school closures led to an estimated 200,000 instances of unreported child mistreatment in March and April 2020.**

Our Mission

Since 1905, The Bradley Center has been committed to improving the lives of children and families affected by trauma, mental illness, and behavioral health challenges.

By providing the education, guidance, and care they need, we help children learn how to regain control and ***build lives of possibility***.

We Believe in Hope Because We Believe in Kids

Students who have experienced trauma, abuse, or mental illness face unimaginable difficulty, which can deeply affect their ability to learn. To succeed, these children often need much more than just a second chance. They also need guidance, compassion, and help making good choices, so they can grow up to become their best selves.

Who We Serve

The Bradley Center consists of The Bradley Residence and The Bradley School. Our School is licensed by and operates according to Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) guidelines in serving the academic and personal development of students in grades 1–12.

All of our teachers are certified by the PDE, and our structured classrooms are supported by highly-qualified teachers' assistants, master's-level therapists, and a certified principal and special education supervisor.





Our Brand New Expansion

Recently, an increasing number of vulnerable children and families requesting Bradley's services led to a waiting list of students who need our unique educational support. To better serve the needs of families in our region, The Bradley School has completed an expansive renovation of its educational wing.

Our newly renovated Bradley School can now educate 261 students, while our residence can serve up to 104 residents. Children who live at the residence may also attend The Bradley School, where they learn alongside students who are enrolled in the School by the referral of their home districts.

New additions to The Bradley School include specialized labs and state-of-the-art learning and activity spaces for children with specific behavioral needs.

Outpatient Therapy Now Available!

In keeping with our mission to support child and family resilience and well-being, The Bradley Center also offers individual and family counseling to children, adolescents, adults, and families who suffer from symptoms of trauma, depression, or anxiety, or who need additional mental health support.

These services are available to both adults and children who are not currently affiliated with The Bradley School or The Bradley Residence.

Bradley's outpatient clinicians are highly trained in:

- Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT)
- Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT)
- Trauma Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT)

Our outpatient therapists work together with every participant ages 6–65 in order to develop an individualized treatment plan that includes clinical goals, measurable objectives, and a clear path to achieving better mental and emotional health.

Why Do Kids Come to The Bradley School?

Students who suffer from mental, emotional, and behavioral disorders often struggle to learn in traditional classroom settings. They may have trouble paying attention, following directions, or working well with others. Their strong emotions may also lead to difficulties with their interpersonal relationships.

Students in these situations will benefit from a different kind of academic experience that helps them address the underlying challenges which keep them from succeeding in class.

Working Together with Students and Educators

When kids have serious problems that are just too challenging for their district-based teachers to manage, Bradley is here to help. But our goal is not to permanently remove students from their local schools. Instead, Bradley is a safe place where children can come to develop the behavioral skills they need to be successful in a mainstream learning environment. And once those challenges have been addressed, students can return to their traditional schools with newfound confidence in their ability to learn, socialize, and self-regulate.

TOP EDUCATOR CONCERNS ABOUT STUDENT WELL-BEING

- Academic Difficulties
- Behavioral Disorders
- Effects of Trauma
- Mental Health Concerns
- Student Anxiety

Source: 2021 Bradley Center survey of educators in PA and WV



*Experts warn that school closures and remote learning reduces—and sometimes eliminates—the amount of time children are interacting with teachers and school-based personnel who are trained to detect and report warning signs of abuse, as well as children struggling with other behavioral and emotional difficulty.**

Proven Solutions That Make a Difference

Most Bradley students follow an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) that is designed to help them achieve their full potential academically, socially, and emotionally. These students' behavioral progression is evaluated daily, and their IEP and curriculum goals are reassessed on a weekly basis. This enables Bradley's educators and therapists to determine how well a student is making progress, and whether new adjustments to the plan need to be made.

Creating Positive Changes

Children who come to The Bradley School are often enrolled through an IEP team or a school-based team decision, which includes the child's teachers and parents. Students are encouraged to participate in this decision-making process, which helps form the basis for positive self-investment and establishes their desire for self-improvement.

Measuring Student Success at Bradley

On average, students attend The Bradley School for one to one-and-a-half academic years before returning to their home district. Over the past five years, students at The Bradley School have had a 99.9% success rate in achieving a return to their home districts.



* Source: Child Abuse and Neglect Journal, September 9, 2020





When You Know a Child Who Needs Bradley, We'll Be Here to Help

Identifying the students who need special support is a crucial step in helping them learn how to overcome their challenges and become happier and healthier. If you know a student who is struggling, please contact The Bradley School today.

To schedule a tour of The Bradley School, or to inquire about referring a student, please call The Bradley Center at 412-788-8219 or email us at education@thebradleycenter.org.

For more information about The Bradley School, please visit us online at thebradleycenter.org.



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A Century of Success

“At a personal level, success looks different for every child. For example, sometimes when children first arrive at Bradley they won’t make eye contact, they may be sad or oppositional, and they may feel as if they can’t trust adults. But, by the end of their time with us, if they’re laughing and joking, or happily playing basketball with their new friends — that’s success.”

— Lisa Fox, Chief Executive Officer at The Bradley Center

“One of my biggest inspirations comes from The Gardener and the Carpenter, a study of parenting styles by developmental psychologist Alison Gopnik. To paraphrase her philosophy: a carpenter tries to fit a child into a predetermined mold, but a gardener plants a seed and lets it grow in its own way. At Bradley, we’re proud to be gardeners.”

— Pat Hargest, Chief Development Officer at The Bradley Center

“Bradley accepted a student from our district who had experienced great difficulties. This young man had never previously been able to ride the school bus because of anxiety issues. I am delighted to report that he is now riding the district buses unaccompanied both ways, attending school regularly, making friends with his peers, and even talking about trying to join the district’s basketball team. For a student who missed more than 100 school days, this truly is an extraordinary accomplishment that represents enormous progress for this young man.”

— Jessica Taylor, Director of Student Services at Avonworth School District





The Bradley School Difference

Our experienced teachers and staff, results-focused IEPs, and dedication to enhancing the lives of every child we serve are the building blocks of a Bradley School education. In addition, our classrooms include state-of-the-art resources that are specifically designed to serve the needs of Bradley students, including:

A CALM DOWN ROOM

When students are struggling with their emotions, this private area offers sensory items and emotional support for their de-escalation and coping skills, so they can return to class ready to participate and be pro-social.

A GROSS MOTOR ROOM

This area offers activities and equipment, including a trampoline, floor mats, exercise balls, and a bubble wall to help students exert their energy and enjoy free movement, which leads to better focus in class.

A LIFE SKILLS APARTMENT

Here, older students can enhance their skills for daily living by exploring meal preparation, practicing housekeeping chores, and learning basic household maintenance.