



# UNLEASHING POTENTIAL *through* **INNOVATION**

## The Pathway School Campaign



The Pathway School provides leading-edge special education and therapeutic support for students ages 5 to 21 with mild-to-moderate autism spectrum disorder, intellectual and significant learning disabilities, emotional challenges, and neurological impairments such as ADHD or Mood and Anxiety Disorders.

# A Tradition of Innovation ...

All children deserve teachers who believe in their potential and inspire their courage as learners. All children deserve a supportive environment in which they have freedom, guidance, and encouragement to interpret and connect information the way they learn best. All children deserve a school that is a safe place to experience failure as a step toward success.

For too long, children with special needs and learning differences were overlooked, their promise discouraged, their potential left undiscovered. In 1961, Sheldon and Florence Rappaport founded The Pathway School determined to change that.

**Their innovative teaching philosophy was grounded in the belief that learning must be adapted to meet all students where they are, that education should be holistic, and that students should acquire practical skills to help them thrive in their communities as children, and later as adults.**

For nearly 60 years, The Pathway School has not strayed from these guiding principles. Today, innovation remains central to serving students better every year. It is one of many reasons Pathway is respected in the field by education advocates, mental health professionals, and over 50 regional school districts that refer students to the school.



Technology is in the hands  
of every Pathway student.

# ... A Campaign to Sustain Innovation



UNLEASHING POTENTIAL  
*through* **INNOVATION**

**The Pathway School Campaign**

**We are investing \$13 million over 5 years  
to unleash the potential of The Pathway School  
to serve more students and serve them better.**

Years of visioning, planning, and research by administrators  
and board members culminated in a two-phase plan to

**Expand Our Student Body, Revitalize Our Campus,  
and Enrich Our STEM Program.**

Thanks to responsible fiscal stewardship, 80% of the investment,  
or \$10.5 million, is coming from a combination of the school's  
operating funds, financial reserves, and loans at favorable rates.

**Our campaign fundraising goal  
is a minimum of \$2.5 million.**

With your generous support, The Pathway School will continue  
the tradition of innovation that makes us a model and leader for other  
schools serving children with special needs and learning differences.





“Before I came to Pathway, I was failing in school. The teaching at Pathway is hands-on and the teachers make learning fun. My job at Pathway helped me learn the value of work. Today, I have my own business with two employees and I own an investment property.”

NICK H., PATHWAY ALUM

## Expanding Our Student Body Will Help 70 More Families

Despite growing recognition of the need to adapt learning to all students, many families endure setbacks, frustrations, and failure trying to coordinate services and support through their local public schools.

**The Pathway School stands as a beacon of hope for families: a place where differences are embraced; where the potential of each child is encouraged, nurtured, and ultimately unleashed.**

The Pathway School Campaign will enable us to increase enrollment so that 70 more families can give their children the Pathway experience annually. In 2017, our enrollment was 140 students. Renovations completed in Phase 1 enabled us to admit 40 additional students in Fall 2018. By the time Phase 2 is complete, we will be able to enroll at least 210 students.



At Pathway, learning is fun and utilizes a variety of materials and tools.



Students engage in hands-on horticulture projects.

## Revitalizing Our Campus Puts Innovation at the Center

The Pathway tradition of innovating to serve students will reach new heights when we open The Innovation Center, our new flagship building, in Fall 2019.

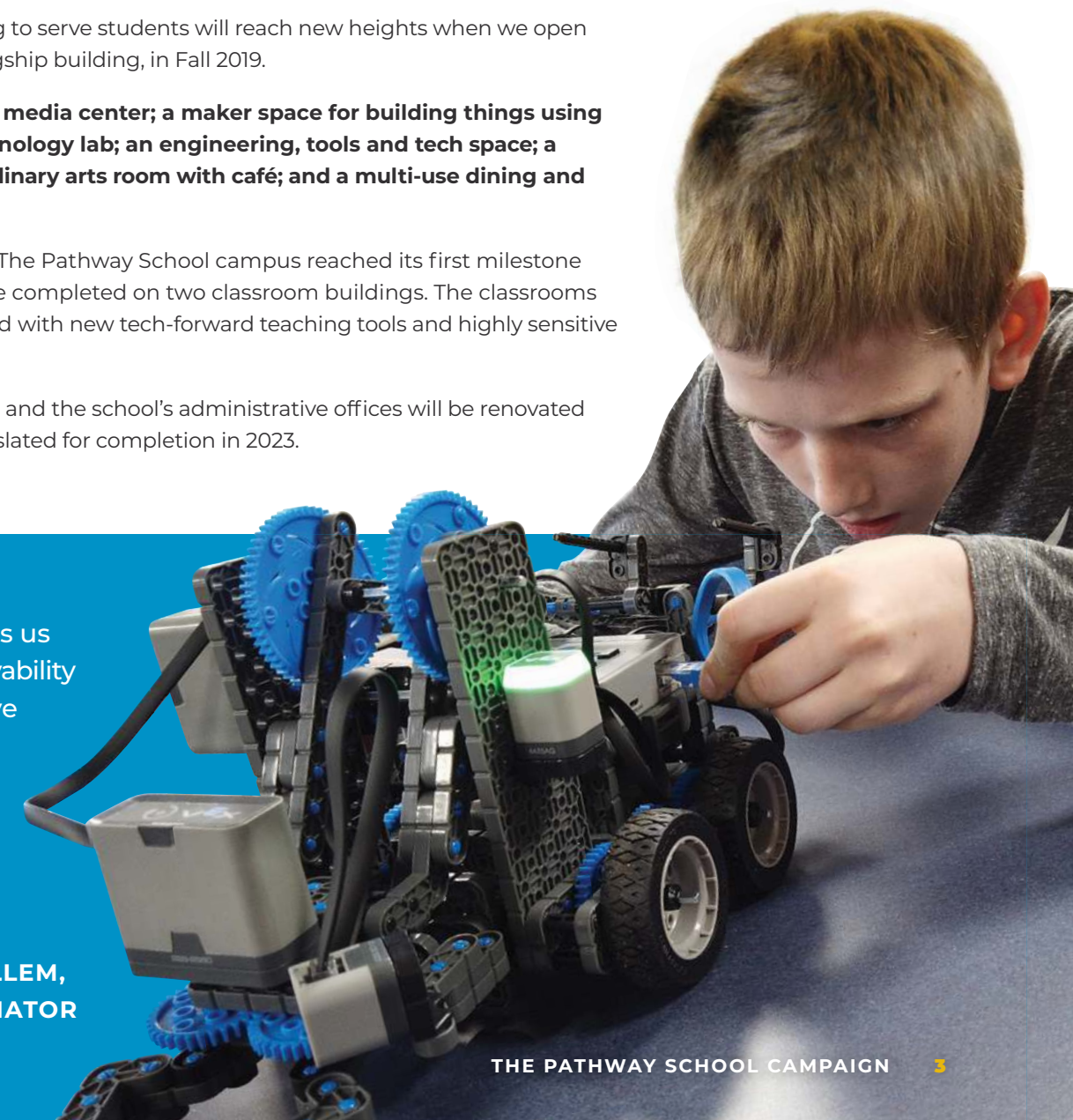
**The Innovation Center features a media center; a maker space for building things using technology; an eGames and technology lab; an engineering, tools and tech space; a visual and digital arts studio; a culinary arts room with café; and a multi-use dining and presentation space.**

The two-phase plan to modernize The Pathway School campus reached its first milestone in Fall 2018, when renovations were completed on two classroom buildings. The classrooms are now state-of-the-art – equipped with new tech-forward teaching tools and highly sensitive lighting controls.

Two additional classroom buildings and the school's administrative offices will be renovated and upgraded in Phase 2, which is slated for completion in 2023.

“The Innovation Center gives us the facilities to teach employability skills for the future. We have the tools and spaces for students to get hands-on experience, enabling them to identify things they are good at and enjoy doing.”

– JEFF FULLEM,  
STEM COORDINATOR



Pathway fosters meaningful friendships within a welcoming community.





## Innovation Center's Spaces and Tools Extend Hands-On Learning from Ideation to Creation

Pathway President and CEO David Schultheis is known to say, "No other school does what we do. No other school can." That was true before work began on The Innovation Center. It is more true now.

The center itself is an innovative concept, designed, built and equipped to support ongoing innovation by and for Pathway students. In every way possible, the center also provides an environment that is conducive to learning, accommodates special needs, and encourages teamwork.

Principal Nina Prestia is excited that the facility can extend existing programs, from STEM to life skills, job skills and entrepreneurial thinking. At the same time, it offers opportunities to create new programs. "The sky's the limit," she enthuses.

### MAKER SPACE

Here students can bring their ideas and use hardware and software tools to turn them into tangible products. By incorporating electronic sensors that detect and react to sound, heat, light and more, students can create components that perform tasks. If that sounds like robotics, it is! But there's no limit to what can be made while getting hands-on experience with the latest technology.

### eGAMES & TECHNOLOGY LAB

Pathway's IT experts built custom computers for this space in which students can hone their skills in eGames and eSports. Many students are already passionate gamers and viewers of online multi-player competitions. This might seem like entertainment, but eSports presents potential earning opportunities in an emerging business with a multi-billion-dollar future.

### MEDIA CENTER

In the smart phone era, video is a primary means of communication for young people. Here students can learn to use all of the recording and editing equipment needed to produce a newscast, a report on a class research project, or anything they want to express through video.

### ENERGY CORRIDOR

Pavegen flooring in part of the Cafeteria entry area gives students the option to create kinetic energy as they walk. A digital data readout shows the power generated in real time.

### VISUAL & DIGITAL ARTS STUDIO

Students can explore artistic interests from painting and sculpture to architecture and digital photography. With the equipment in this space, they also can learn to design and produce items to be sold, like t-shirts and decals, promoting entrepreneurial thinking.

### ENGINEERING, TOOLS & TECH SPACE

Students can learn to use the tools of the carpentry, plumbing and electrical trades in this fully equipped shop space. As they gain skills, students can make things for use by themselves and others at Pathway, such a furniture, bookshelves or sets and props for theatrical performances.

### CULINARY ARTS ROOM

Students can learn cooking and safe food handling in a restaurant-style kitchen. Once a week, they also practice customer service skills by operating as a cafe, taking orders, working the register, and serving lunch to Pathway staff.

### SENSORY-FRIENDLY DINING ROOM

In this serene space, students who don't enjoy the noisy crowd in the cafeteria can eat their meals in peace.

### SCHOOL KITCHEN

Our professional kitchen staff prepares healthy and tasty breakfasts and lunches daily. Some students have paying jobs in the kitchen.

### DINING & PRESENTATION COMMONS

When not filled with students eating meals and socializing, this large space can be transformed for performances on a portable stage or teacher trainings using a screen that drops down from the ceiling.





“Our son has gone from being a teenager who never wanted to go to school to one who is excited about the STEM activities he is now involved with. We have seen a huge improvement in his academic progress.”  
– RON M., PARENT



Students participate in career education at our community business partners' locations.



Students take pride in their accomplishments while learning at community work sites.

## Enriching Our STEM Program Connects Students with their Future

Pathway’s curriculum encourages creativity, innovation, and entrepreneurship. It is grounded in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math), the arts, career education and functional life skills. Customized education plans are designed to meet individual needs and assure each student’s success.

**Each year 60% of our graduates go on to regular or supported employment or volunteer jobs. About 30% go on to a two-or four-year college or trade school.**

From kindergarten through high school, students benefit from a multi-sensory and inter-disciplinary approach, in-class technology and high-tech learning tools. With subjects as diverse as robotics, horticulture and a robust drama program, at Pathway there’s opportunity for every student to find their niche and to thrive.

The Pathway School Campaign will enable us to provide a “STEM for All” curriculum, fully integrating in-class learning with STEM concepts that are omnipresent in 21st century careers and daily life. As part of this initiative, we will offer expanded on-campus and on-the-job learning opportunities that help students envision themselves in careers, identify post-graduation goals, and chart a path to their future as adults.



Smart technology in classrooms helps students engage and learn interactively.



## Sound Fiscal Management Puts Campaign Goal in Reach

The Pathway School is well positioned to invest in its future due to its sound and self-sustaining operating business model and financial reserves developed with responsible fiscal stewardship and investment.

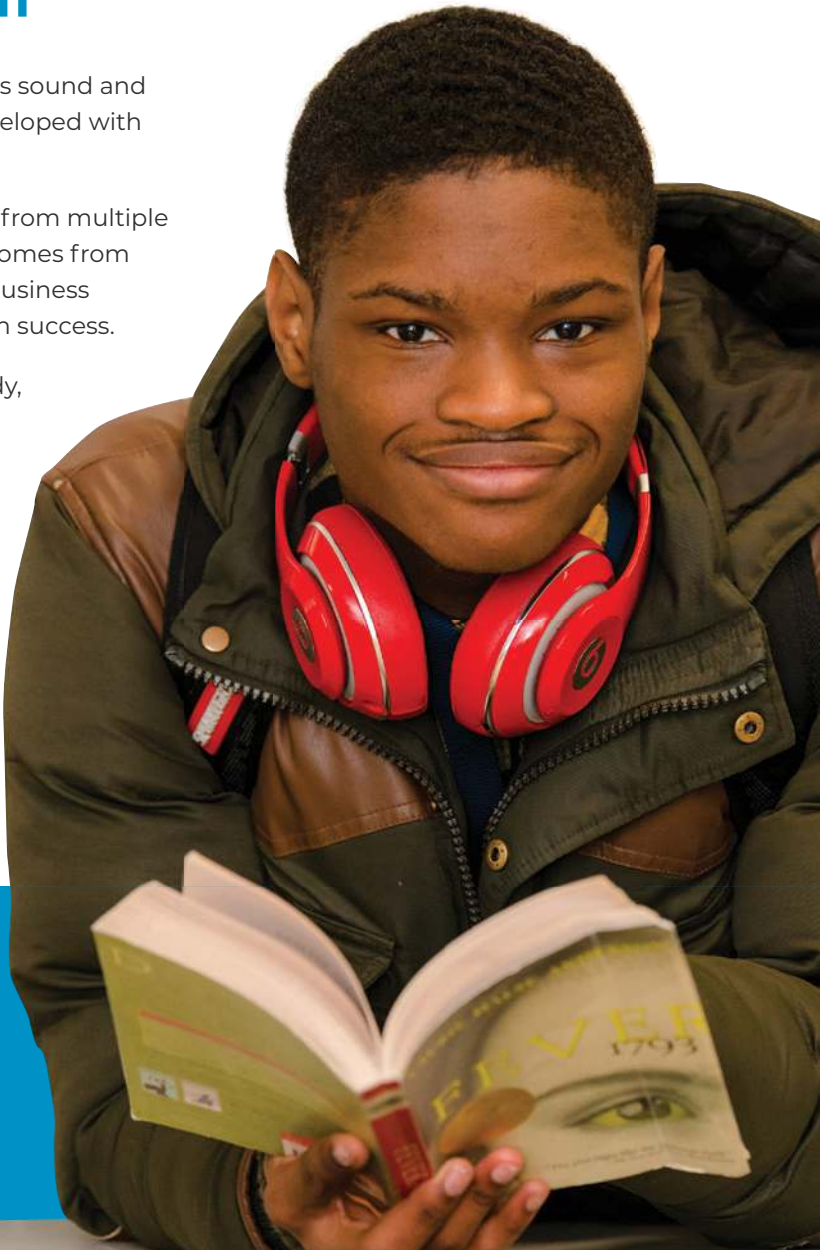
To finance the full five-year vision, Pathway is assembling resources from multiple sources. A major component is the additional tuition revenue that comes from expanding the student body. Higher operating income makes the business model stronger and more sustainable, assuring Pathway’s long-term success.

In determining the ideal funding model to Expand Our Student Body, Revitalize Our Campus, and Enrich Our STEM Program, school leaders wanted to ensure that the fundraising goal would be solidly within reach.

**Unleashing Potential through Innovation: The Pathway School Campaign seeks a minimum of \$2.5 million in philanthropic contributions.**

Reaching that goal is a matter of reaching out to people like you, who appreciate the importance of a state-of-the-art campus and curriculum to providing brighter paths for young people with special needs and learning differences.

“My son is getting a 21st century learning experience at Pathway. They have the focus, they have the intent, they have the big ideas, and they’re putting them into place. The practical application with the kids is awesome.”  
– REBECCA C., PARENT







## With Your Support, We'll Unleash More Potential

The young people enrolled at The Pathway School are succeeding as students, making friends, and finding joy being children and teenagers. Step-by-step, they are building confidence as they create their path to a happy, productive adulthood.

With your support, Pathway will raise the necessary funds to sustain innovation and unleash the potential of more young people now and for many years into the future.

**We'd love to tell you more about our vision for The Pathway School, and how you can be part of our students' success. Please contact us to arrange a call or meeting.**

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**P**  
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**DID YOU KNOW** that Pathway's robust drama program includes three productions each year, as well as a Theatre Residency Program with Theatre Horizon in Norristown?



The Lion King



Hairspray



Finian's Rainbow



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