FREIRE SCHOOLS: BACKGROUND INFORMATION

FREIRE SCHOOLS MISSION
Freire Schools empowers students to build the future. We provide a rigorous education in a safe, creative, and supportive environment that enables and inspires all children to achieve.

ABOUT FREIRE SCHOOLS
Freire Schools is committed to ensuring that every single student who walks through our doors can succeed and grow. We provide students in underserved communities a college-prep learning experience with a focus on individual freedom, critical thinking, and problem solving in an environment that emphasizes the values of community, teamwork, and a commitment to peace. We are four distinct schools in two different cities, each guided by the same values of equity, diversity, love, and critical thinking.

Freire Schools students are confident, dynamic, and collaborative individuals who are engaged in their communities and excited to apply the skills and knowledge they acquire at Freire Schools to create new possibilities for our futures. Of Freire Schools’ 2,000 total students, 89% are Black or Latinx, and almost all students qualify as economically disadvantaged.

We combine high expectations with robust supports to provide each Freire Schools student with the challenges and resources they need to succeed: 93% of 2019 Freire Schools graduates were accepted to college, and 86% of college-enrolled Freire Schools graduates persist to their second year of college (compared to the national average of 74%). Ensuring equity in education is at the core of Freire Schools’ work. We strive to provide the individually tailored resources, challenges, and supports that each individual student needs in order to achieve at the highest level.

FREIRE SCHOOLS COMMITMENT
Kids are at the center of all that we do, and we believe that they have unlimited potential. A commitment to deeper learning is at the core of our educational practice, and we are successful when everyone in our community is growing. We are committed to applying these principles at every level of Freire Schools’ operation, ensuring that:

• Our schools are safe and welcoming.
• Our decision making is informed by our history, the most respected research in the field, and our desire to do best for our kids.
• We are all connected, and everyone has a voice—our students, parents, staff, board members and community.
• We uphold our mission and honor the educational values of Paulo Freire.
• We identify, develop, and retain talented teachers and leaders from diverse backgrounds.
• We are intentional and strategic in how we use our public funds, and we maximize our resources to go beyond a basic education to one that is inspired and inspiring.
• We are ethical, legally compliant, and fiscally sound in all that we do.
• We believe that learning extends past the classroom walls, and we seek partners who share our values and help our students succeed.
• We are a voice for and example of high-quality urban education for economically disadvantaged students.
OUR SCHOOLS

FREIRE HIGH SCHOOL
500 TOTAL STUDENTS • GRADES 9-12 • FOUNDED 1999 • 2027 CHESTNUT STREET, PHILADELPHIA, PA 19103
One of the first charter schools to open in Pennsylvania, Freire High School was founded in 1999 as the flagship Freire Schools campus. Our remarkable 15-to-1 student to faculty ratio allows us to provide the focused attention of each of our students need to catch up, then surpass expectations. And people have noticed. We have made U.S. News and World Report’s “100 Best High Schools” list, and Metro has called us a top-five Philly charter school. We have also exceeded the School District of Philadelphia’s performance on the Keystone exams measuring proficiency in Literature and Algebra every year since 2013-14.

FREIRE MIDDLE SCHOOL
500 TOTAL STUDENTS • GRADES 5-8 • FOUNDED 2012 • 1026 MARKET STREET, PHILADELPHIA, PA 19107
Our students arrive at Freire Middle School at a range of achievement levels. Here, they don’t just catch up—they make leaps in personal and academic growth, setting them up for even greater success in high school. In 2018-19, Freire Middle School was ranked #4 among middle schools in the entire city of Philadelphia on the School District of Philadelphia’s annual School Progress Report and was one of only two schools in the city to earn a perfect score in “Progress”—the District’s measure of students’ growth on standardized tests.

FREIRE WILMINGTON
500 TOTAL STUDENTS • GRADES 8-12 • FOUNDED 2015 • 201 W 14TH STREET, WILMINGTON, DE 19801
Freire Wilmington’s goal for our students is “Graduation x2”—success in and graduation from not just high school, but college as well. Our unique five-year high school program, starting in 8th grade, gives students the time and support they need to catch up and then excel. Our proven college-preparatory academic program offers Delaware students a much-needed free, high-quality education option, and our 98% college enrollment rate far exceeds both the national average (68%) and Delaware’s state average (61%). On last year’s state tests, Freire Wilmington students had the third highest Reading growth scores of any school in the state—and the 15th highest Math growth score in the state.

TECH FREIRE
500 TOTAL STUDENTS • GRADES 9-12 • FOUNDED 2016 • 2221 N BROAD STREET, PHILADELPHIA, PA 19132
TECH Freire reimagines the college prep high school by blending state-of-the-art equipment and hands-on learning with the rigor of the time-tested Freire Schools liberal arts program to help each of our students truly thrive. We have a culture that demands excellence from our students while providing them the supports they need to achieve at high levels and prepare for college. TECH Freire is a school of many firsts. The first Freire school to feature makerspaces—complete with laser cutters, virtual reality and more—on campus and fully integrated into the school’s curriculum. The first to form an Entrepreneurship Club in partnership with the Fox School of Business. The first to compete in the MESA (Mathematics, Engineering and Science Achievement) Challenge through a partnership with Temple’s College of Engineering. TECH Freire enrolls students from throughout Philadelphia, with a focus on students who live in the nearby Strawberry Mansion area. We work every day to be a true community school—an integrated and contributing part of the neighborhood.