



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 students are confident, dynamic, and collaborative individuals who are engaged in their communities and are excited to apply the skills and knowledge they acquire at Freire Schools to create new possibilities for our future. Of Freire Schools' 2,000 students, 94% are Black or Latinx, and almost all students qualify as economically disadvantaged.

Even during the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, our students kept their sights set on college – our 274 Class of 2020 graduates were accepted to 165 colleges and universities and earned over \$13.8M in college scholarships and aid. Ensuring equity in education is at the core of Freire Schools' work. We strive to provide the individually tailored resources, supports, and experiences that each individual student needs to achieve at the highest level. Our average student to faculty ratio is 16:1.

FREIRE SCHOOLS COMMITMENT

Kids are at the center of all that we do, and we believe that they have unlimited potential. 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 what's best for our kids.
- We are developing an actively anti-racist school network.
- We are all connected and everyone has a voice – our students, parents, staff, board, 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.
- 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 18:1 student to faculty ratio allows us to provide the focused attention each student needs 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. Year after year Freire students beat local, state, and national averages in their college persistence rates. In each graduating class, typically 89% to 92% of all of our first-year college freshmen return to college for their sophomore year. Even during the COVID-19 pandemic, our 81% second year persistence rate far exceeds the national average of 69%.

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. This past year, Freire Middle School received Great Philly Schools' 2020 High Growth Rating for demonstrating "impressive academic growth" over a three-year period in math and reading. In 2018-19 (the last year for which there are test results due to COVID-19), Freire Middle School ranked #4 out of all public Philadelphia middle schools on the School District of Philadelphia's annual School Progress Report. For the third consecutive year, Freire Middle School received a Progress score of 100%.

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. And it's working! Our proven college-preparatory academic program offers Delaware students a much-needed tuition-free, high-quality education option, and our 91% college acceptance rate far exceeds both the national average (69%) as well as Delaware's state average (61%).

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. 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.

TECH Freire's Class of 2020 was accepted to at least 77 colleges and universities and earned over \$3.7 million in college scholarships and aid. Additionally, 59% of our first graduating class (Class of 2019 and latest data available) matriculated to college the following fall, exceeding the School District of Philadelphia's rate.