



# 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 – 78% our 293 Class of 2021 graduates were accepted to a collective 146 colleges and universities and earned over \$11.3M 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. On average, 88% of Freire High School students graduate high school in four years – at least ten percentage points higher than the School District of Philadelphia's four-year cohort graduation rate. 83% of the Freire High School Class of 2021 were accepted to college, and 2021 graduates earned at least a combined \$3.7 million in scholarships and financial aid offers for college. Freire High School's rigorous, creative curriculum and comprehensive academic and emotional supports help our students thrive in high school, in college, and beyond.

### 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 14<sup>TH</sup> 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. 98% of Freire Wilmington's first graduating class — the Class of 2019 — were accepted to college, with an average of more than 4 college acceptances per student. The Classes of 2020 and 2021 faced a unique set of challenges with COVID-19, and more students opted to take a gap year due to uncertainty about the pandemic's impact on college. But, the Class of 2021 still made impressive strides toward their college goals, with 79% of graduates accepted to at least one college and more than \$4.6 million earned collectively in scholarships and aid.

### 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, but works every day to be a true community school – an integrated and contributing part of the neighborhood. Despite the impact that the pandemic had on student postsecondary plans across the country, TECH Freire's Class of 2021 was accepted to at least 69 colleges and universities and earned over \$2.9 million in college scholarships and aid.