

THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF PHILADELPHIA

High School Application Process

Tips for Parents

Parents/Guardians of 6th, 7th, and 8th graders

- Talk to your child about their **interests** and **talents**. Together, think about planning for your child's future. Contact your child's school **counselor** to find out what kind of education and/or training is required for the jobs that interest them.
- **Monitor** your child's **attendance, grades, and behavior**. These are important criteria in the application process for Special Admission High Schools and Citywide Admission High Schools.
- When your child is absent from school, send an **absence note** to the teacher that explains the **reason for the absence**, so that the absence can be coded as **excused**. Your child's attendance record will be important when applying to magnet high schools, colleges, and vocational schools.
- If you are concerned about your child's **behavior** in school, contact the school to discuss behavioral supports.
- If you are concerned about your child's **report card grades**, contact the school to discuss the supports and services your child is receiving in the Core Curriculum. Students with disabilities should be graded according to the provisions on their IEPs.
- If you are concerned about your child's **standardized test scores**, ask questions about the role of test scores in the high school application process. This is part of the discussion on whether or not your child should be tested a level down on the Terra Nova tests.
- Encourage your child to participate in community programs and after school programs that are designed to **develop your child's interests and talents**. Contact the school counselor for information. Also, ask about things you can do at home to help your child develop in these areas.
- Review the **High School Directory**. Talk about the programs that interest your child. Make a list of schools you would like to visit at the High School Expo. The directory is available at your child's school and online. <http://www.phila.k12.pa.us/offices/sem/main.html>
- Attend the **High School Expo**. Visit the booths for the high schools offering programs that interest your child. **Ask questions** regarding the program they offer and the application requirements. If there are special requirements for auditions, interviews, essays, or portfolios, contact the school counselor for support at school. Find out how you can help at home.
- Request an IEP meeting, if necessary, to talk about your child's academic and behavioral progress, high school programs and selections and if a program has admission requirements possible exceptions to those requirements for your child. The **IEP team** will determine whether your child can successfully participate in the programs they wish to apply for based on the supports and services that are specified in their IEP.