

# 10

THE TOP 10

## REASONS TO CHOOSE



## THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF PHILADELPHIA FOR YOUR CHILD'S EDUCATION

01

### EARLY LITERACY

As part of our commitment to help young learners become strong readers, we've trained all of our K-3 teachers to become expert reading instructors. Every elementary school has an early literacy coach to support high-quality reading instruction and all kindergarten through third-grade classrooms have grade-level libraries to promote a love of reading.

### COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS

To help prepare students for success after graduation, we offer 35 rigorous Advanced Placement courses, International Baccalaureate Diploma programs and dual enrollment programs where students can take college courses and earn college credits while still in high school. All HS students have free access to PSAT and SAT practice tests and individualized college-prep tools. Students can also choose from among 40 Career and Technical Education programs and earn industry certifications aligned with high-priority occupations identified by the Department of Labor.

02

03

### PERSONALIZED ACADEMIC CHOICES

SDP provides a range of school options to meet the unique learning styles, interests and talents of our students. In addition to neighborhood schools, we offer 22 themed magnets, virtual schools and nine specialty programs -- from creative and performing arts and criminal justice to international affairs, human services and Peace Academy. We also have Pennsylvania's only middle college program, which enables students to earn a high school diploma and an associate's degree at the same time.

### DIVERSITY

Our district and charter schools serve more than 203,000 students who come from a range of socio-economic backgrounds and speak 157 different languages. This diverse, multicultural environment contributes to richer, more meaningful learning experiences for students and helps prepare them today for the globally competitive workplaces they will enter tomorrow.

04

05

## STUDENT WELLNESS AND WELL-BEING

Every District school is focused on creating a learning environment that is safe, welcoming and inclusive. School nurses and counselors are available in every school, and staff receive ongoing training to provide caring, positive and relationship-focused supports for students. We also offer nutritious breakfasts and lunches free of charge to ensure all students are fueled to learn every day.

## COMMITMENT TO PROGRESS

For three years in a row, SDP has improved in the areas that matter most to student success -- student achievement and progress, school climate, and college and career readiness. The 2018 Overall School Progress Report score of 42% is up +9 points since 2015. We are committed to continuing this progress.

06

07

## STUDENT GROWTH

Our students are growing academically. The number of students scoring proficient or advanced on the PSSAs and Keystone exams continues to increase. In 2018, our students' academic progress outpaced the state average in every subject and grade tested.

## GRADUATION RATE

Our four-year cohort graduation rate continues to rise each year, reaching 79% in 2018 for District high schools. (Note: The combined graduation rate for District and Alternative schools is 69%.)

08

09

## ARTS & MUSIC EDUCATION

SDP was awarded a 2019 Best Communities for Music Education Award by the NAMM Foundation. Our schools are supported by over 100 robust partnerships with leading local and national arts and culture organizations. All District elementary schools offer art and instrumental music education. Artistic education promotes learning in other areas by building self-confidence, creativity and intellectual curiosity.

## BLUE RIBBON RECOGNITION

Thirty District schools have been recognized by the U.S. Department of Education as National Blue Ribbon Schools for their commitment to high academic achievement and narrowing achievement gaps. In 2018, Albert M. Greenfield and William M. Meredith elementary schools were two of only 19 Pennsylvania schools with this distinction.

10



THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF  
PHILADELPHIA

STAY CONNECTED [www.philasd.org](http://www.philasd.org) [PHLSchools](#) [Philly\\_Schools](#) [PhillySchools](#)