



URBAN ACADEMY

— OF GREATER PITTSBURGH CHARTER SCHOOL —

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE
2016-17 SCHOOL YEAR

**EXCELLENCE
WITHOUT
COMPROMISE**

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The Urban Academy of Greater Pittsburgh Charter School and the Urban Academy Foundation are the underpinning of our success. The members advise and govern the policies and direction of the school and foundation and serve as advocates on behalf of the community. Their support and guidance have played a critical role in the school's substantial growth in recent years.

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WE ARE URBAN

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WE ARE URBAN

Dear Friend,

This year, the Urban Academy of Greater Pittsburgh Charter School ("Urban") celebrates its 20th year of educating tomorrow's leaders. As the first charter school in the city, we are very proud to carry out our mission, impacting the lives of over 3,000 scholars. We are especially proud to report an overall academic proficiency increase on the Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA) in reading, math and science. We are also proud to report that over the past three years, Urban has been among the top three schools in narrowing the racial achievement gap with a three-year average of 16 in English Language Arts (ELA) and 26 in Math.

As the school transitions with new leadership, we have been thoughtful and deliberate in addressing the needs and demands of our families and students. Last year we began to reflect, self-evaluate, set goals and look ahead toward a new 5-Year Vision for the future of our school. Our strategic plan, "Excellence Without Compromise" will highlight the following as key values for the school's success.

Focused on equity:

We increase learning opportunities for all students, regardless of background.

Led by our teachers:

We afford teachers the opportunity to be responsible for the educational program.

Defined by choice & innovation:

We provide parents and students with expanded choices within the public school system.

Accountable for results:

We are accountable for meeting measurable student outcomes.

With the governance and approval of Urban's Board of Trustees, we have become more aggressive with enhancing & increasing enrichment opportunities and services for Urban scholars and their families. We are proud to report the development of our new state-of-the-art, Science, Technology, Robotics, Engineering, Arts and Math (STREAM) House which will provide our students with many more hands on opportunities to explore and experience the challenges and successes of building and innovating. We are also very proud of our new partnerships with the historically black fraternities and sororities, the National Society of Black Engineers, Gateway Health and Little Medical School.

We are humbled to work alongside some of the region's most talented educators and produce daily a culturally relevant and rigorous learning environment that demonstrates that black boys and girls, can achieve greatness in the classroom too. We teach our students to be ferocious in their pursuit of knowledge and persistent in their desire to achieve their dreams.

We are proud to be 20 years strong as we renew our pledge to Excellence Without Compromise.

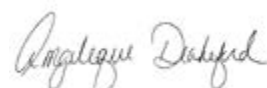
Sincerely,



Marita Bradley
Chair, Board of Trustees



K. Chase Patterson
Chief Executive Officer



Angelique Drakeford
Principal & Chief Academic Officer

THE FUTURE

Originally founded in 1998 as the Urban League of Greater Pittsburgh Charter School, the Urban Academy of Greater Pittsburgh Charter School ("Urban Academy") was an early pioneer in the Pittsburgh school choice movement, and has served as a beacon of hope and opportunity for thousands of students and families, the vast majority of whom come from underserved communities across Allegheny County. With a long and distinguished history of outperforming its district and charter school peers, and of eliminating the racial achievement gap (particularly in 3rd-5th grade literacy), Urban Academy has consistently delivered on its mission:

"To provide superior education that will develop in our students' academic excellence, leadership skills and social values that will enable them to ultimately become positive contributors to the community in which they live and society as a whole."

Since its resurgence in 2015 under a new name, a new board of directors, and a newly enhanced building (with 10,000 additional square feet), the school continues to honor its legacy of Afrocentric pedagogy (now reframed as "Black 2 the Core") and "Excellence Without Compromise", cultivating in its young scholars a deep sense of agency and pride in their culture and identity. In leading the school through its recent transition, the school's leadership and board affirmed its commitment to the community by looking to minority and female-owned construction, architectural and project management firms for support in reclaiming an outdated school building and "giving it back."

In addition to its fervent commitment to educational equity and opportunity for all children, Urban Academy's academic program boasts a number of distinguishing features:

- **Extended School Day** (7:30AM-3:10PM) and **School Year** (199 Days).
- **STREAM:** Science, Technology, Robotics, Engineering, Arts, Mathematics, embodied in its current efforts to develop the first STREAM Center in the City of Pittsburgh.
- **Whole Child:** All students in grades K-5 receive instruction in Art, Music, Spanish, PE, Chess, Computers and access to the STREAM Space.
- **Technology Integration:** Each classroom is equipped with an Aquos Board, and the school offers students a 1:1 ratio for Chromebooks, which can be found in every classroom.
- **Recognition:** Deemed a "model of success", Urban Academy has been lauded for its innovation and commitment by its authorizers (Pittsburgh Public Schools, Middle States Association Commission on Elementary and Secondary Schools), and by independent voices and advocates like A+ Schools and PennCAN.
- **Community Partnerships:** Through the support of our old and new friends at Gateway Health, the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, Highmark, Grow Pittsburgh, Assemble Scholars, National Society of Black Engineers, and Mercy Behavioral, the school has afforded its students and families unique social and academic opportunities, such as classroom projects linked to community revitalization efforts, access to world-class professional development for staff, and funding for innovative afterschool enrichment.





WHAT'S NEW

STREAM HOUSE

The physical embodiment of The Urban Academy's recommitment to innovation and increased learning opportunities in Science, Technology, Robotics, Engineering, Arts and Math for our students, families and the neighborhoods in Pittsburgh's East End community.

BLACK 2 THE CORE

Widely promotes The Urban Academy's schoolwide climate that fosters a deep understanding of and appreciation for the African and African American cultures, traditions and histories reflected in the Urban Academy student community.

SUMMER LEARNING ACADEMY

The four-week program includes KinderSummer for incoming Kindergarten students, SLA for students in first through third grades and SEEK, in partnership with the National Society of Black Engineers, focuses on STEM subjects. Each program is strategically designed to combat the summer "brain drain" that traditionally occurs during the summer months.

ONE:ONE TECHNOLOGY

The Urban Academy has made the investment in 1:1 technology which better allows the instructional team to differentiate assignments or even individualize using adaptive technology that gets harder or easier based on previous student responses. The students are also learning the basics of coding, research strategies and how to develop assignments and reports.

WHAT'S TO COME

STATE OF BLACK LEARNING – An annual convening of the region's educational thought leaders and stakeholders, from early education through terminal degrees to discuss the current state of black learning in our region and design policy and action recommendations for improvements to the region's educational system.

FAMILY FIRST CENTER – Will launch at the beginning of the 2018-19 school year and will serve as a hub, within the school building, for families and students to create richer learning experiences, while connecting to jobs, support resources and other opportunities for economic and social mobility.

URBAN REACH – Is a virtual tutoring program designed to cultivate a volunteer and teacher pipeline through the development of micro-instructors in high school, college and career who will provide core subject tutoring and enrichment to Urban Academy students and families, at no cost.

FINANCIAL REPORT



Income

LOCAL REVENUE

Tuition from Districts	3,416,705
Contributions	21,140
Income from Rental Payments	14,513
Investment Account Earnings	76,360
Interest Earnings	1
Misc Income	<u>7,143</u>
Total LOCAL REVENUE	3,535,861

STATE REVENUE

ACCESS Reimbursement	3,969
Lease Reimbursement	12,855
Ready to Learn Grant	10,404
Health Reimbursement	1,094
Food Service Reimbursement	<u>7,062</u>
Total STATE REVENUE	35,383

FEDERAL REVENUE

Title I	97,373
Title II	7,624
IDEA B-611	30,256
IDEA 619	464
Food Service Reimbursement	<u>157,271</u>
Total FEDERAL REVENUE	292,988

Total Income

3,864,233

Expenses

Total 100 – SALARY	1,572,671
Total 200 – BENEFITS	710,637
Total 300 – PROFESSIONAL PURCHASED SERVICES	682,176
Total 400 – PURCHASED PROPERTY SERVICES	393,431
Total 500 – OTHER PURCHASED SERVICES	334,735
Total 600 – SUPPLIES	95,401
Total 700 – EQUIPMENT	171,719
Total 800 – OTHER EXPENSES	5,327

Total Expenses

3,966,097

Net Income

(101,864)

ASSETS

Total Checking & Savings	313,824
Other Current Assets	
Due from Local	662
Due from Districts – Prior Years	(178,961)
Due from Districts – 2015-2016	-
Due from Districts – 2016-2017	297,142
Due from State	15,146
Due from Federal	77,427
Pre-Paid Expenses	49,270
Security Deposits	105,236
Total Other Current Assets	365,922
Total Fixed Assets	1,192,824
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>1,872,570</u>

LIABILITIES

Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	136,813
PSERS EE Liability	10,938
PSERS ER Liability	222,734
PenServ EE Liability	2,037
PenServ ER Liability	2,037
Summer Payroll Liability	139,054
Other Payroll Deductions	1,129
Total Current Liabilities	514,742
Long Term Liabilities	31,833
TOTAL LIABILITIES	546,575
EQUITY	1,325,995
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	<u>1,872,570</u>





ACADEMICS & CURRICULUM

The Urban Academy's belief in "Excellence Without Compromise", permeates our academic and curricular philosophy. Each academic program encourages growth and success for all students. Our curriculum is set to align with the Pennsylvania Core Standards, while infusing both Black history and culture into every subject area. The Urban Academy's School Performance Profile score has increased from 48.3 in 2015-16 to 60.4 in the 2016-17 academic school year. This 25% increase is a result of the school's dedicated and motivated staff who believes in the school's charter and each student's holistic growth and development.

Most of our students spend a minimum of 2 hours per day focused on English Language Arts. Every grade participates in 60 to 90 minutes of daily math instruction. Within these blocks, all students participate in tiered instruction, allowing the entire school to receive instruction at their individual level. All grade levels have weekly access to the science lab where students participate in hands on real life experiences. Though core subjects are important, every scholar receives instruction in social studies and computer technology.

Our extended school year allows students more time to focus on academics. Instruction is highly differentiated and all instructional staff members are required to create a rigorous learning environment for all students. Student Evaluation Plans are prepared annually which allow teachers, parents, and students to have direct dialogue about each scholar's academic standing, progress, and goals.

PA Core Aligned Curriculum

Education requirements are forever changing; in order to create the next generation of leaders, we hold our students to a high standard of achievement. All instructional staff follows a reading and math curriculum designed specifically for Urban Academy that allows conceptual understanding. In order to ease the learning of critical information, math and reading information is organized and structured for each grade level.

Rigorous and Data Driven Learning Environment

We understand every student has a variety of skills and abilities. It's our job to meet every student where they are, yet challenge their higher order thinking skills by creating a student centered environment where students create the dialogue and challenge each other using grade level focused material and information. Schoolwide data is used to create and instruct small groups daily which allow every student to receive instruction on their individual level.

Black 2 the Core

As an institution founded on African Principals, it is essential to incorporate history and culture into daily lessons. Every student has the right to learn content that builds on their prior knowledge and cultural experiences. We remain Black 2 the Core by not only teaching black history, but infusing Black history and Black culture into every subject area in each grade level.

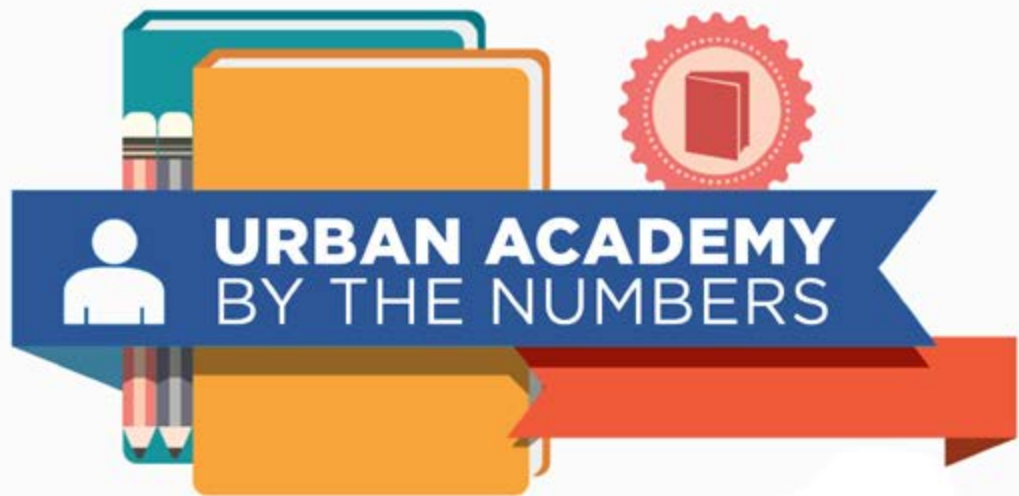
Enrichment

All students are afforded enrichment opportunities through coding, art, Spanish, tutoring, and project-based learning. Any student needing enrichment receives small group instruction 3-5 days a week in reading and math. All 4th and 5th grades participate in dissection lessons and every child in the building participates in STREAM related activities.

Parent's Academy

The Urban Academy staff and parents work together to provide the best academic experience for all scholars. This year we've implemented Parent's Academy, which allows parents an opportunity to understand school expectations, PA Core Standards, Data, and Title I. Parent's Academy not only strengthens the relationship between Urban Academy and parents, but implements ongoing knowledge for parents to stay connected within their scholar's educational experience.





Grade Enrollment - 227



District Enrollment



PITTSBURGH 135



PENN HILLS 43



WOODLAND HILLS 26



WILKINSBURG 12



PLUM 2



STEEL VALLEY 2



STO-ROX 6



WEST MIFFLIN 1



Males 105

Total Student Enrollment



Females 122

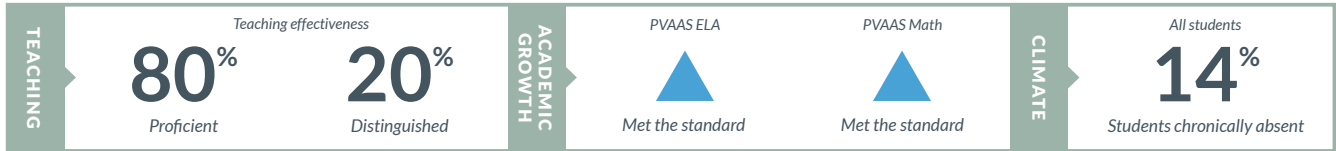


Urban Academy of Greater Pittsburgh Charter School

K-5 charter school

437 Turrett St., 15206 • Larimer • 412-361-1008 • Accessible

Principal: Angelique Drakeford



Teaching 14 teachers

Teachers feel the school is a good place to work and learn*: **95%**
 Teachers new to the school: **21%**
 Teachers absent 18+ days: **0%**
 Principal stability: **1 principal in the last 4 years**

School climate

Parents recommend school*: **n/a**
 Student stability rate: **97%**
 Students suspended at least once:
Overall: 1%
 Black: 1%
 White: n/a
 Low-income: 2%
 IEP**: 3%

Special accomplishments

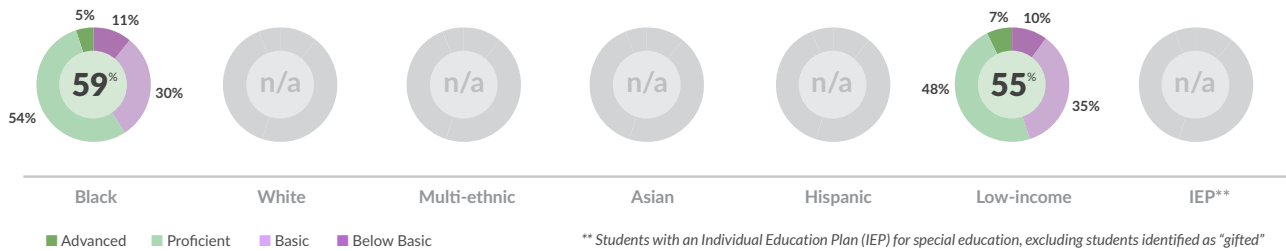
[School did not provide this information]

* Based on survey responses

Key outcomes

3rd grade Reading 2017: Percentage of students at each PSSA achievement level

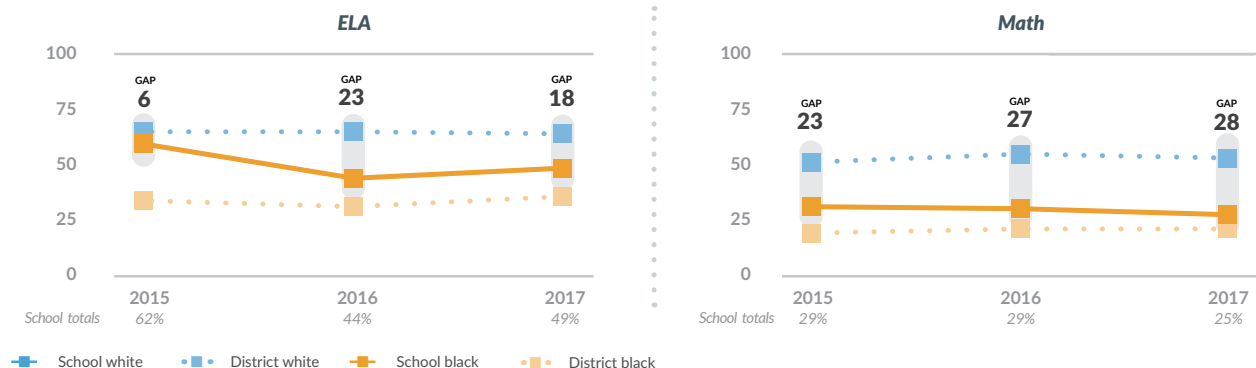
(Middle number: percent Proficient/Advanced)



** Students with an Individual Education Plan (IEP) for special education, excluding students identified as "gifted"

Gap in percentage of students at Proficient/Advanced levels on PSSA tests (3rd through 5th grades)

Gap: Difference between black achievement at the school and white achievement in the district



Enrollment 226 students

African-American: **97%**, Multi-ethnic: **2%**, IEP*: **12%**
 Economically disadvantaged: **98%**

*Sourced from A-Plus School 2017 Report to the Community

School comparisons: Elementary

	3RD GRADE PSSA READING	READING ACHIEVEMENT GAP (3-5)	MATH ACHIEVEMENT GAP (3-5)	ENROLLMENT GAIN/LOSS 2014-17	CAPTURE RATE	STUDENTS RATED TEACHING***	SITE-BASED BUDGET PER PUPIL SPENDING
Arsenal	▼	▼	○	○	▼	◇	○
Banksville	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	◆	▼
Beechwood	▲	○	▲	▼	▲▲	◆	○
Concord	○	○	○	▲	▲▲	◆	▼
Faison	▼	▼	▼	○	○	◆	○
Grandview	▼	▼	○	○	▲	◆	○
Lincoln	○	○	▼	▼	○	◇	▲
Miller	▼▼	▼	▼	▼	○	◇	▲
Minadeo	▼	○	▼	▼▼	▼	◆	▼
Roosevelt	○	▼	▼	○	▲	◆	○
Spring Hill	○	▼	▼	▼	▲	◇	▲
Weil	▼	▼	▼	○	▼	◇	▲
West Liberty	▲	▲▲	▲	○	▲	◇	○
Westwood	○	○	○	○	○	◇	○
Whittier	▲	▼▼	▼	▼	▲▲	◆	○
Allegheny	▲	▲	▲▲	▲	n/a	◆	▼
Dilworth	▼	▲▲	▲▲	○	n/a	◆	▼
Fulton	▲	▲▲	▲▲	▼	▼	◆	○
Liberty	○	▲	○	▲	n/a	◆	▼
Linden	○	○	▼	○	n/a	◇	▼
Montessori*	▲	○	○	n/a	n/a	◆	▲▲
Phillips	○	○	▼	○	▲▲	◆	▼
Woolslair	○	▲	▲	▲▲▲	▼▼	◇	▲
Provident**	▼▼	▼▼	▼	n/a	n/a	n/a	▲
Urban Academy	○	▲	▲	▲	n/a	n/a	▲
Urban Pathways	○	▲	▲	○	n/a	n/a	▲▲

▲ Greater than one standard deviation above the district average
 ▲▲ Greater than two standard deviations above the district average
 ▲▲▲ Greater than three standard deviations above the district average
 ○ Near the district average

▼ Greater than one standard deviation below the district average
 ▼▼ Greater than two standard deviations below the district average
 ▼▼▼ Greater than three standard deviations below the district average

◆	Above national average
◇	Close to national average
◆	Below national average

▲	Gap is smaller than district average
▲▲	Gap is much smaller than district average
○	Gap is near district average
▼	Gap is bigger than district average
▼▼	Gap is much bigger than district average

Magnet school

Charter school

The "standard deviation" is a measure of how much schools vary from the district average on the indicators we selected. One standard deviation above or below indicates a substantial difference from the average, and two or more standard deviations indicates an even greater difference from the average.

See page 17 for more information.

* The school changed configuration (K-8 to K-5) within the last 4 years.

**Provident opened in 2016-17 with grades 3 and 4.

*** Based on survey responses



ALUMNI PROFILE

Name **Cecil Price**

Alumnae **Class of 2013**

Pittsburgh Obama Class of 2020

"The Urban Academy is the place that aided with the creation of my path for success. My primary years at Urban were a time where my talents were expressed through everything. The talents I possessed were shown mostly through education and the arts. In education, I had wonderful teachers every year. Even though I had different teachers when I went to each grade, they all had one thing in common, which was that they enticed my learning in the classroom. The teachers I had all had separate teaching styles, yet I still succeeded. The styles of teaching are the reason why my grades were so high. Because of my grades, I received the Principal's Award."



Urban Academy of Greater Pittsburgh Charter School
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