



**LOVE • CARE • COMPASSION**



**ANNUAL REPORT** FOR THE 2017-18  
SCHOOL YEAR

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

*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.*

### The Urban Academy

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#### Vice Chairman

Dr. Linda Kmetz

Jasmine A. Juleau

Thomas Giotto, Esq.

Dr. Julia Kaufman

Shavonne Lowry

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# URBAN'S REACH

*Dear Friend,*

*Last year, The Urban Academy of Greater Pittsburgh Charter School celebrated its 20th school year of helping to empower tomorrow's leaders through learning. We continue to be driven by our mission and the purpose of our founding, which is to demonstrate that ALL students, particularly black students, can achieve greatness when engrossed in an academically rigorous and culturally responsive learning environment. We believe that the 2017-2018 school year is among one of our most successful on many fronts and we are grateful to parents, partners, and students who helped to keep our work focused on what is most important; building strong, dynamic, and versatile Black minds.*

Since our relocation in 2016 The Urban Academy has been situated in a community where the large opportunity gap between black and white students is clearer than ever. While surrounding areas have undergone major gentrification, The Urban Academy has become a staple in the community, and we are extremely proud of that. Even with the apparent wage gap, The Urban Academy remains sturdily nestled in Larimer providing a quality educational option for low-income families being pushed out of neighborhoods that look like ours. Our school is one of a few schools where Black student and students from low-income families do better than most of their city counterparts.

During the 2017-2018 school year The Urban Academy successfully created programming to allow soon-to-be kindergarten students to have a successful jump start with their learning experience with our KinderSummer program. KinderSummer allows incoming kindergarten students to effectively begin Kindergarten in July, one month sooner than their schoolmates. KinderSummer helps prepare kindergarten students for the daily routines and procedures of school as well as begins the review of

the alphabet, letter sounds, numbers, and writing their name. Our Summer LEAP program served students who required more academic attention from falling victim to the "summer slide" affecting knowledge retention. Data proved from its first year that the program prevented regression in 61% of the program participants in Early Literacy, Math and Reading.

Although budget overruns did not allow us to move forward as soon as we would have liked with the STREAM House project we have strategically acquired twelve lots surrounding the school with the vision of developing The Urban Academy Campus. While we didn't build the STREAM House we still ensured that our students had access to enrichment opportunities, state of the art technology like 3d printers, doodle pens, and virtual reality goggles, as well as little medical school allowing our students access to hands on opportunities to explore and experience the challenges and successes of building and innovating. We continue to be grateful for our partnerships with the historically black fraternities and sororities, the National Society of Black Engineers, Gateway Health and Little Medical School.

***We are proud of our legacy and we continue our commitment to Excellence Without Compromise.***



**Marita Bradley**  
*Chairperson*



**K. Chase Patterson**  
*Chief Executive Officer*



**Angelique Drakeford**  
*Principal & Chief Academic Officer*



Jovanna Henderson, 1st Grade

# WHO WE ARE

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 our 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 administration and board affirmed its commitment to the community by developing the Family First Center and Student Support Services Department.



**Jae’Ron Lee, 2nd Grade**



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).**

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- **STREAM:** Science, Technology, Robotics, Engineering, Arts, Mathematics, embodied in its current efforts to develop the first STREAM Center in the City of Pittsburgh.

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- **WHOLE CHILD:** All students in grades K-5 receive instruction in Art, Music, Spanish, PE, Chess, Computers and access to the STREAM Space.

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- **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.

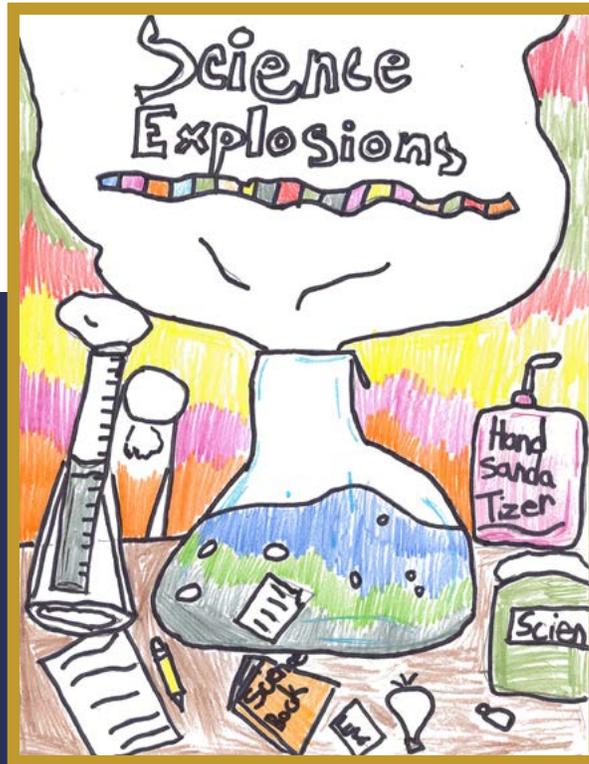
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- **RECOGNITION:** Deemed a “model of success”, Urban Academy has been lauded for its innovation and commitment by its authorizers (Pittsburgh Public Schools, Middle States Association Commission on Elementary and Secondary Schools), and by independent voices and advocates like A+ Schools and PennCAN.

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- **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.

## STUDENT ART PROFILE



Artist: **RYLEE MCKINLEY**

Age: **9**

Teacher: **Ms. Thrower & Ms. Norris**

Grade: **3<sup>rd</sup>**

- **What is your favorite thing to do?**  
My favorite things to do are dance, draw and gymnastics.
- **What is your favorite color?**  
My favorite colors are purple, black, blue and silver.
- **What inspired you to draw this?**  
I am inspired by Mrs. Stippy's art and I want to be a great artist like her.
- **Who inspires you to be great?**  
My teacher and my parents inspire me.
- **Why do you like Art?**  
I like art because all of the colors that make my eyes pop and it's beautiful.
- **Why are you proud to be an Urban Academy Lion?**  
I am proud to be an Urban Academy Lion because there is a big opportunity for learning.



## WHAT'S NEW

### URBAN ACADEMY CAMPUS

The Urban Academy's vision to build a complex dedicated to increasing learning opportunities, addressing community needs, and providing holistic services to our students and families.

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STATE OF  
**BLACK  
LEARNING**

### STATE OF BLACK LEARNING

An annual conference designed to help educators best serve Black students in the pursuit of equity, excellence, and justice.

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### FAMILY FIRST CENTER

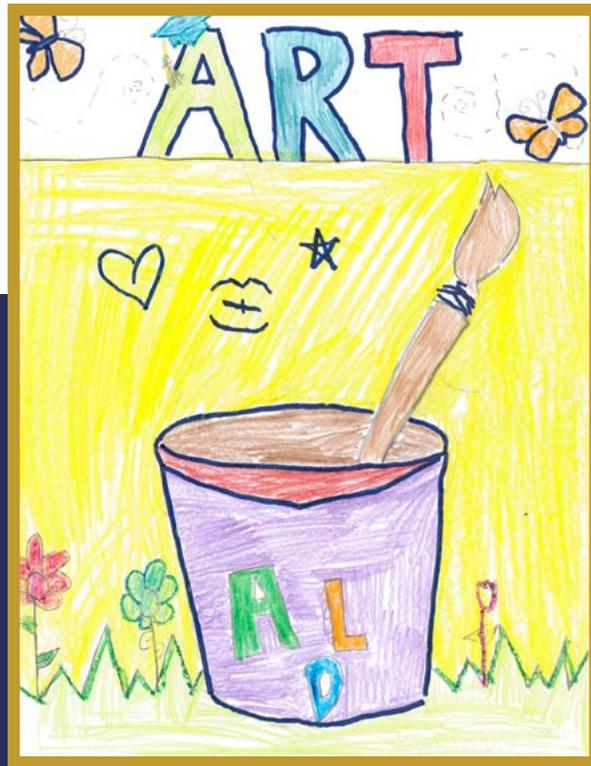
Serves as a hub, within the school building, for families and students to create richer learning experiences, while connecting to support resources and other opportunities for economic and social mobility. .

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### VIRTUAL URBAN

Is a virtual book club designed to help our students develop their reading skills and engage with successful Black mentors who will help enrichment Urban Academy students and families, at no cost.

## STUDENT ART PROFILE



Artist: **AA'RIYA LENNON**

Age: **10**

Teacher: **Mrs. Connolly**

Grade: **5<sup>th</sup>**

- **What is your favorite thing to do?**  
Sing, Draw, Dance, Read
- **What is your favorite color?**  
Neon Green
- **What inspired you to draw this?**  
Nature and Summer
- **Who inspires you to be great?**  
My brothers, mom, friends, but mostly myself.
- **Why do you like Art?**  
I like art because art allows me to be myself. When I draw, I feel a sense of relief inside.
- **Why are you proud to be an Urban Academy Lion?**  
I'm proud to be an Urban Academy Lion because this is the school that celebrates my culture and respects it.

## STUDENT ART PROFILE



Artist: **TIFFANY BANKSTON**

Age: **10**

Teacher: **Mr. Young**

Grade: **4<sup>th</sup>**

- **What is your favorite thing to do?**  
My favorite thing to do is sing.
- **What is your favorite color?**  
My favorite color is black.
- **What inspired you to draw this?**  
I was inspired by the school and the theme itself.
- **Who inspires you to be great?**  
Beyonce' inspires me because she taught me that when times are hard, keep doing what you love.
- **Why do you like Art?**  
I like art because I can express myself.
- **Why are you proud to be an Urban Academy Lion?**  
I'm proud to be an Urban Academy Lion because there are not a lot of people that have the same privilege as me.

# FINANCIAL REPORT

## ASSETS

<b>Total Checking and Savings</b>	<b>257,135</b>
Other Current Assets	
Due from Local	
Due from Districts - Prior Years	13,178
Due from Districts - 2017-2018	441,126
Due from State	22,671
Due from Federal	98,135
Pre-Paid Expenses	69,994
Security Deposit	100,236
<b>Total Other Current Assets</b>	<b>745,340</b>
<b>Total Fixed Assets</b>	<b>1,369,748</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>2,372,223</b>

## LIABILITIES

<b>Current Liabilities</b>	
Accounts Payable	83,087
PSERS EE Liability	11,330
PSERS ER Liability	190,485
PenServ EE Liability	5,383
PenServ ER Liability	6,363
Summer Payroll Liability	138,603
Other Payroll Deductions	3,199
Deferred Revenue	9,301
Capital Lease Short Term	22,682
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>470,433</b>
<b>Long Term Liabilities</b>	<b>36,704</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>507,137</b>
<b>EQUITY</b>	<b>1,865,086</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<b>2,372,223</b>





## INCOME

### LOCAL REVENUE

Contributions	23,542
Grants	40,765
Tuition from Districts	4,973,749
Income from Rental Payments	24,978
Investment Account Earnings	69,313
Interest Earnings	1
Misc Income	4,584
<b>Total LOCAL REVENUE</b>	<b>5,072,625</b>

### STATE REVENUE

Lease Reimbursement	20,450
Ready to Learn Grant	10,404
Food Service Reimbursement	6,799
<b>Total STATE REVENUE</b>	<b>37,653</b>

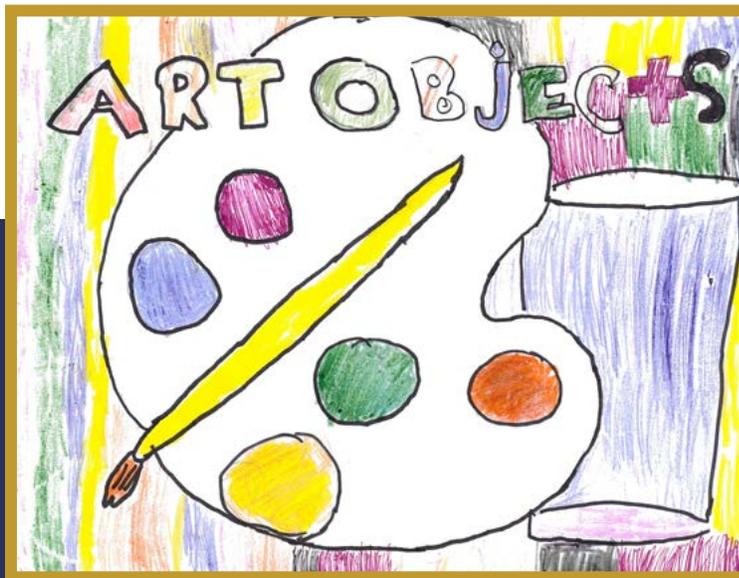
### FEDERAL REVENUE

Title I	125,591
Title II	15,494
Title IV	10,000
IDEA Part B 611	29,823
Food Service Reimbursement	155,382
<b>Total FEDERAL REVENUE</b>	<b>336,290</b>
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>5,510,876</b>

## EXPENSES

100-SALARY	2,268,013
200-BENEFITS	812,777
300-PROFESSIONAL PURCHASED SERVICES	345,936
400-PURCHASED PROPERTY SERVICES	656,219
500-OTHER PURCHASED SERVICES	544,302
600-SUPPLIES	257,269
700-PROPERTY/EQUIPMENT	11,721
800-OTHER EXPENSES	19,652
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>4,915,890</b>
<b>NET INCOME</b>	<b>594,986</b>

## STUDENT ART PROFILE



Artist: **GABBRIELLE VILLARS**

Age: **10**

Teacher: **Ms. Fisher**

Grade: **4<sup>th</sup>**

- **What is your favorite thing to do?**  
My favorite thing to do is draw and paint.
- **What is your favorite color?**  
My favorite color is lime green.
- **What inspired you to draw this?**  
My love for painting inspires me.
- **Who inspires you to be great?**  
My parents and teachers inspire me.
- **Why do you like Art?**  
I like art because my dad is an artist.
- **Why are you proud to be an Urban Academy Lion?**  
I am proud to be an Urban Academy Lions roar and we have very amazing teachers.

# 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	▼	▼	○	○	▼	◇	○	\$8,995
Banksville	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	◆	▼	\$7,835
Beechwood	▲	○	▲	▼	▲▲	◆	○	\$8,752
Concord	○	○	○	▲	▲▲	◆	▼	\$8,203
Faison	▼	▼	▼	○	○	◆	○	\$8,662
Grandview	▼	▼	○	○	▲	◆	○	\$9,209
Lincoln	○	○	▼	▼	○	◇	▲	\$10,401
Miller	▼▼	▼	▼	▼	○	◇	▲	\$10,901
Minadeo	▼	○	▼	▼▼	▼	◆	▼	\$8,300
Roosevelt	○	▼	▼	○	▲	◆	○	\$9,446
Spring Hill	○	▼	▼	▼	▲	◇	▲	\$10,748
Weil	▼	▼	▼	○	▼	◇	▲	\$10,946
West Liberty	▲	▲▲	▲	○	▲	◇	○	\$9,079
Westwood	○	○	○	○	○	◇	○	\$9,514
Whittier	▲	▼▼	▼	▼	▲▲	◆	○	\$9,859
Allegheny	▲	▲	▲▲	▲	n/a	◆	▼	\$8,017
Dilworth	▼	▲▲	▲▲	○	n/a	◆	▼	\$7,755
Fulton	▲	▲▲	▲▲	▼	▼	◆	○	\$8,823
Liberty	○	▲	○	▲	n/a	◆	▼	\$7,386
Linden	○	○	▼	○	n/a	◇	▼	\$7,785
Montessori*	▲	○	○	n/a	n/a	◆	▲▲	\$11,903
Phillips	○	○	▼	○	▲▲	◆	▼	\$8,188
Woolslair	○	▲	▲	▲▲▲▲	▼▼	◇	▲	\$11,069
Provident**	▼▼	▼▼	▼	n/a	n/a	n/a	▲	\$10,239
Urban Academy	○	▲	▲	▲	n/a	n/a	▲	\$11,177
Urban Pathways	○	▲	▲	○	n/a	n/a	▲▲	\$12,078

- ▲ 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

## STUDENT ART PROFILE



Artist: **AARON LESTER**

Age: **7**

Teacher: **Ms. Hanner**

Grade: **2<sup>nd</sup>**

- **What is your favorite thing to do?**  
My favorite thing to do is play football.
- **What is your favorite color?**  
Green
- **What inspired you to draw this?**  
I was inspired by playing with my team, the East-End Raiders.
- **Who inspires you to be great?**  
I am inspired by my mom, dad, brothers and my teacher.
- **Why do you like Art?**  
I like art because we do fun stuff.
- **Why are you proud to be an Urban Academy Lion?**  
I am proud to be an Urban Academy Lion because of my teacher.

# WE ARE URBAN

## 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 Principles, 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.

## PARENTS ACADEMY

The Urban Academy staff and parents work together to provide the best academic experience for all scholars. Last year we implemented Parent's Academy which allows parents an opportunity to understand school expectations, PA Core Standards, Data, and Title I. Parents 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.

# 2018 ENROLLMENT TOTAL

## Total Enrollment District 14

East Allegheny <b>3</b>	Brentwood <b>1</b>	Carlynton <b>2</b>	Duquesne <b>1</b>	Fox Chapel <b>1</b>
McKeesport <b>3</b>	Sto-Rox <b>5</b>	Penn Hills <b>45</b>	Pittsburgh <b>172</b>	Plum <b>2</b>
Shaler <b>1</b>	Steel Valley <b>2</b>	Wilkinsburg <b>21</b>	Woodland Hills <b>33</b>	<b>Total Enrolled</b> <b>292</b>

<b>GRADE</b>	 <b>GIRL</b>	 <b>BOY</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
Kindergarten	29	22	51
First Grade	23	27	50
Second Grade	28	22	50
Third Grade	21	25	46
Fourth Grade	28	20	48
Fifth Grade	18	29	47
<b>Total by Gender</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>292</b>

Program for students with exceptionalities (formally known as Special Education Dept.)

\*45 students with an IEP

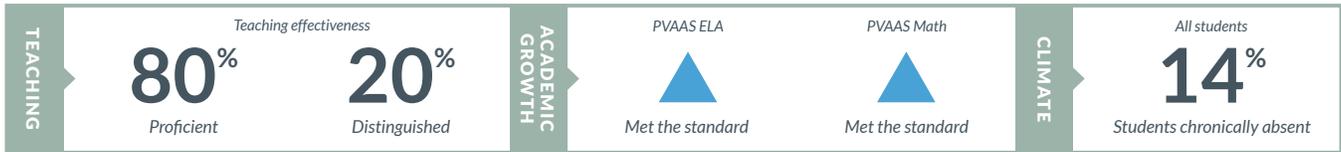


# Urban Academy of Greater Pittsburgh Charter School

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

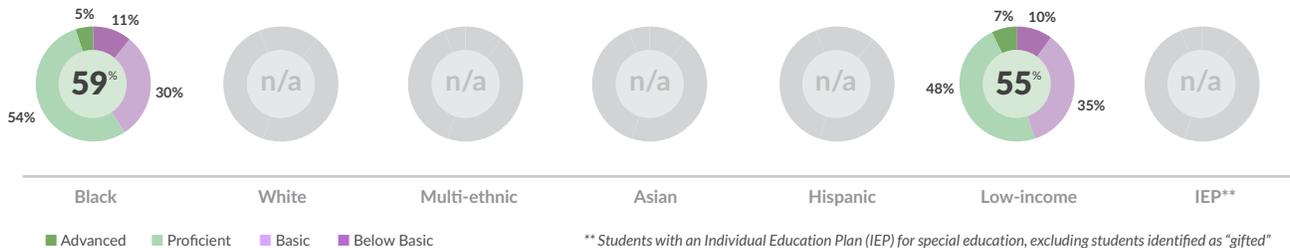
[School did not provide this information]

\* Based on survey responses

## Key outcomes

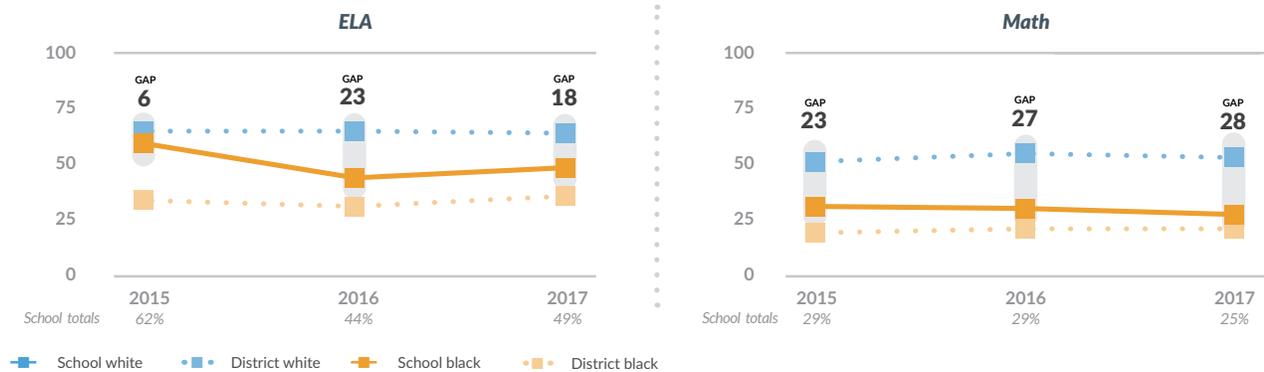
### 3rd grade Reading 2017: Percentage of students at each PSSA achievement level

(Middle number: percent Proficient/Advanced)



### 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%**



## Urban Academy of Greater Pittsburgh Charter School

 437 Turrett Street  
Pittsburgh, PA 15206

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 412.361.1008

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 [www.urbanacademypgh.org](http://www.urbanacademypgh.org)