

# College and Career Ready

## *Cincinnati Public Schools' 7-12 High School Model*



**The Transition:** All high schools within Cincinnati Public Schools now offer grades 7-12 to better prepare our students for the demands of college, careers and life in the globally competitive 21<sup>st</sup> century economy. The transition to offering all 7-12 high schools began with the 2013-14 school year.

**Why it's Needed:** Educational standards have changed. New Common Core academic standards demand more rigorous knowledge and skills, and Ohio has revised its graduation tests to reflect them. Ohio also now requires four years of high school math (beginning with the Class of 2014). The 7-12 high school model allows students to gain stronger progression and earlier proficiency in higher order skills in demanding subjects such as math and science. This positions students for earlier attainment of high school credits and success in the new standards and assessments.

### **Benefits for Students:**

- Summer Bridge
- Individual Academic Plans
- Advanced Placement
- Credit Recovery
- Access to extracurricular activities
- Career planning (Naviance)

**What it Means for Families:** Families of current 6<sup>th</sup>-, 7<sup>th</sup>- and 8<sup>th</sup>-graders are encouraged to study the high school choices available within Cincinnati Public Schools, then ***apply online to the high school lottery*** via any computer with Internet access during the High School Application Period (usually held in February).

Online applications may be submitted by parents and/or students from home (or on any computer with Internet access), or current 6<sup>th</sup>-, 7<sup>th</sup>- and 8<sup>th</sup>-graders may put in online applications on computers in their current schools.

**Descriptions of all CPS high schools are provided in the annual *High School Guide* (available in January) and on the CPS Website: [cps-k12.org](http://cps-k12.org).**

*Continued*

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## *Frequently Asked Questions about Cincinnati Public Schools' 7-12 High School Model*

### **Why is Cincinnati Public Schools transitioning its high schools to serve grades 7-12?**

Cincinnati Public Schools' students now are learning less material, yet mastering more knowledge, under the new, more-rigorous Common Core Academic Standards. CPS made the transition to 7-12 high schools so as to better prepare students in our middle grades (6-8) to master the more complex subjects they will face in high school. Students in grades 7 and 8 now are taught at the high school level by content specialists (teachers who majored in subjects such as math, science and English), instead of the generalist teachers who typically work in elementary schools. This means students begin learning such high school-level subjects such as Algebra I in earlier grades.

### **When can students apply to CPS high schools?**

Applications are submitted online during the two-week High School Application Period, usually held in February. At CPS, high school applications for 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> grades are submitted online, and seats are awarded through a random lottery system. Parents are asked to select a top-choice high school and four additional back-up choices.

Applications to the lottery may be made two ways:

- Parents or students may submit applications from home or on any Internet-connected computer. Computers are available for parents' use at all CPS schools; call the school for office hours.
- Students currently in grades 6, 7 and 8 may submit the online applications at school using school computers.

Applications for 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> grades are not accepted at the high schools; they must be submitted online.

Waiting until after February to submit an application is not recommended. After the High School Application Period ends, applications still can be submitted online, but students will have far less chance of getting into their first-choice high schools.

Parents will be notified by letter, about two weeks after the lottery closes, about high school lottery placement.