THE PreP ACADEMY

DPS #61 TO RCC

YOUR DIPLOMA AND DEGREE IN 4 YEARS

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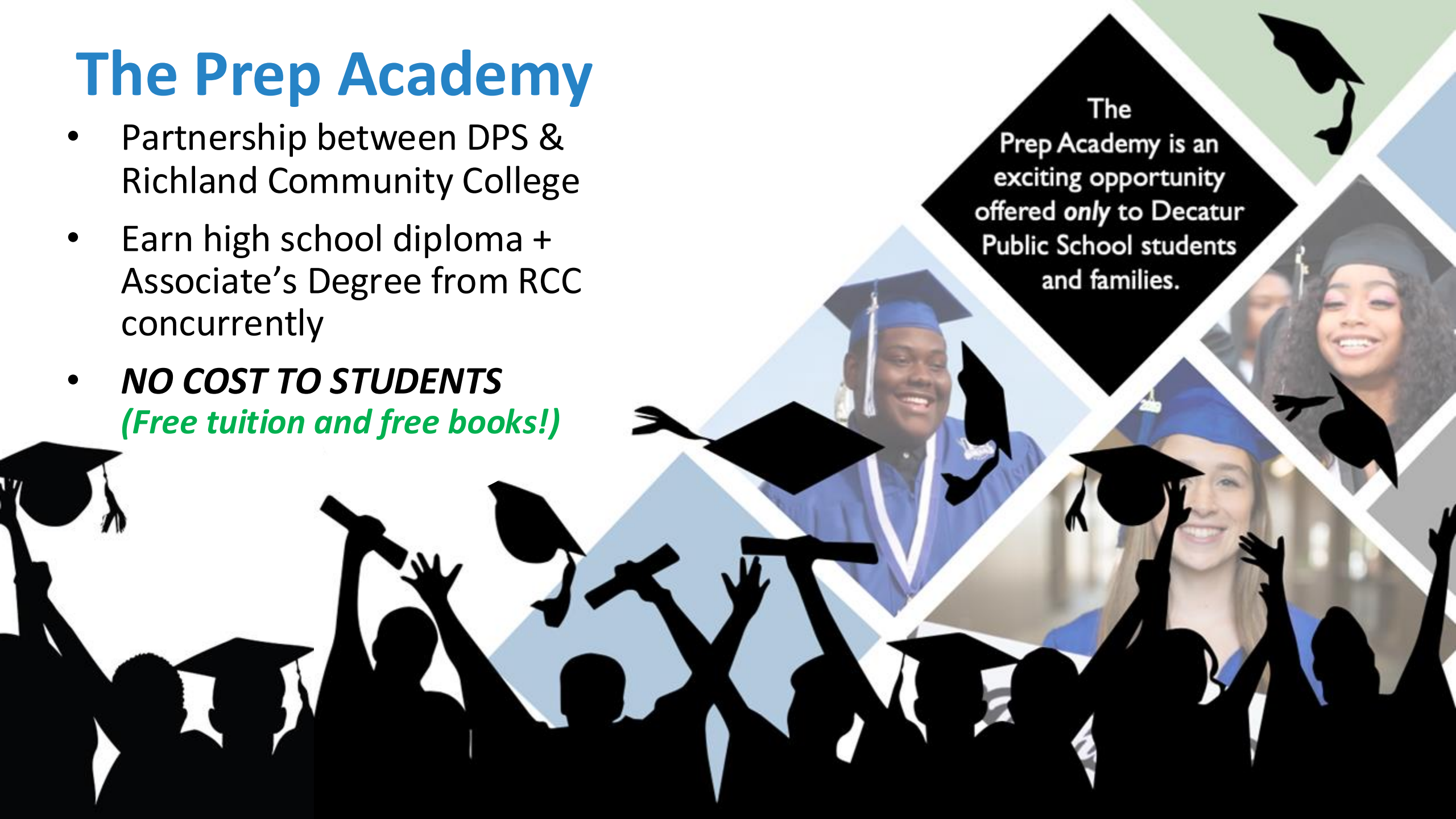Ariel Velasco
Dual Credit Coordinator - RCC

The Prep Academy

- Partnership between DPS & Richland Community College

- Earn high school diploma + Associate's Degree from RCC concurrently

- **_NO COST TO STUDENTS_**
  (Free tuition and free books!)

The Prep Academy is an exciting opportunity offered *only* to Decatur Public School students and families.

Strategic Plan Alignment

Strategy #1

"We will ensure unique, innovative learning experiences for all students."

Results Statement 1:

- Develop a sequential program that builds from Pre-K through 12 to result in all students following a learning pathway toward specific employable skills or education that supports their individual interests, passions, and choice.
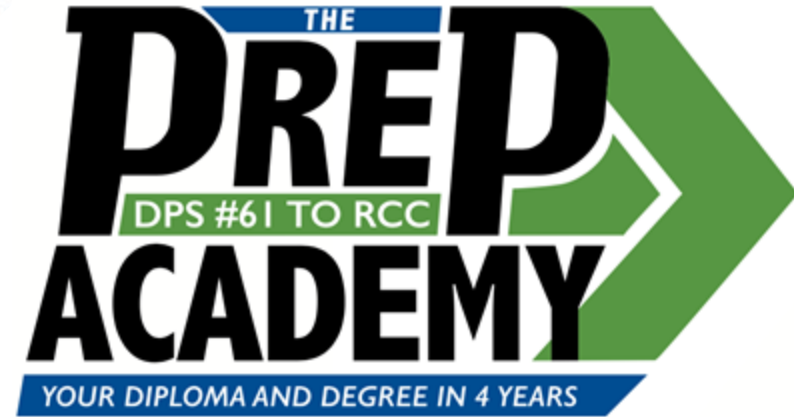
Action Step:

- Implement intentional learning experiences that develop each student's core academics, personal strengths, and individual interests with the development of an Associate's Degree upon graduation.
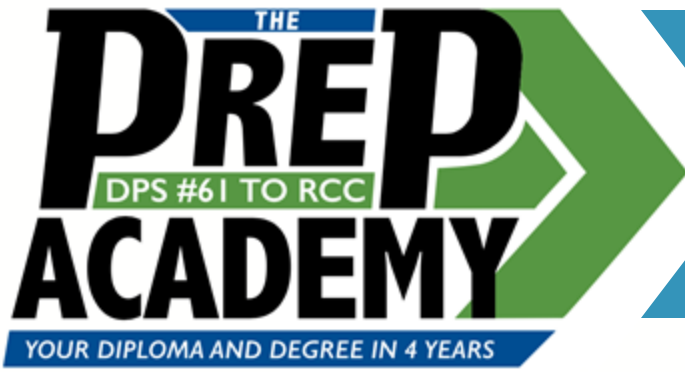
THE PREP ACADEMY IS AN EXCITING OPPORTUNITY OFFERED *ONLY* TO DECATUR PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS AND FAMILIES.

What is Dual Credit and an Associate's Degree?

- Dual credit allows high school students the opportunity to earn college credits while in high school.

- Associate degrees are foundational degrees that can help students achieve academic and professional goals in less time than it takes to earn bachelor's degrees.

- Gain a head start toward their college education.

- Increased competitive edge when it's time to apply for their first job.

Guiding Principles

- Inclusion and diversity
- Accessibility for all students
- Real world applications
- Cost savings
- Personal coaching
- College preparedness
- Early career exposure
- Increased future employment opportunities

Program Performance Indicators

Enrollment by Cohort:

- ***26 current Seniors (Cohort 1) Graduate May 2025!***
- 38 current Juniors (Cohort 2) Graduate May 2026!
- 41 current Sophomores (Cohort 3) Graduate May 2027!
- 47 current Freshmen (Cohort 4) Graduate May 2028!
- 50 incoming freshmen to begin Fall 2025!
- Metrics being monitored:
  - # of students enrolled
  - # of college credits earned
  - College grade point average
  - Diversity and inclusion metrics

4-Year Sample Schedule

THE PREP ACADEMY
DPS #61 TO RCC
YOUR DIPLOMA AND DEGREE IN 4 YEARS

9th

	Semester 1	Semester 2
	English	English
	Math	Math
	Science	Science
	Foreign Language	Foreign Language
	Health	Drivers Ed
	DPS Elective	DPS Elective
	STDEV 101 - 1	STDEV 102 - 1

11th

	Semester 1	Semester 2
	US History	US History
	Math	Math
	ENG 101 - 3	ENG 102 - 3
	RCC Study Hall	RCC Study Hall
	COMM 101 - 3	SOCIO 110 - 3
	PSYCH 110 - 3	BIOL 101 - 4
	RCC Elective	RCC Elective

10th

	Semester 1	Semester 2
	Math	Math
	World History	World History
	Science	Science
	Foreign Language/ or Another Elective	Foreign Language/ or Another Elective
	Early Bird ENG 2/PE	Early ENG 2/PE
	Fine Arts Elec/BUS - 3	Fine Arts Elec/BUS - 3
	AFAM 100 - 3	AFAM 120 - 3

12th

	Semester 1	Semester 2
	MATH 113 - 4	CHEM 100 - 4
	RCC Elective - 3	RCC Elective - 3
	RCC Elective - 3	RCC Elective - 3
	STDEV 104 - 1	RCC Elective
	English 4	Engl 4 (*if needed*)
	Consumer Ed	Inspired Futures Internship
	Civics	Inspired Futures Internship
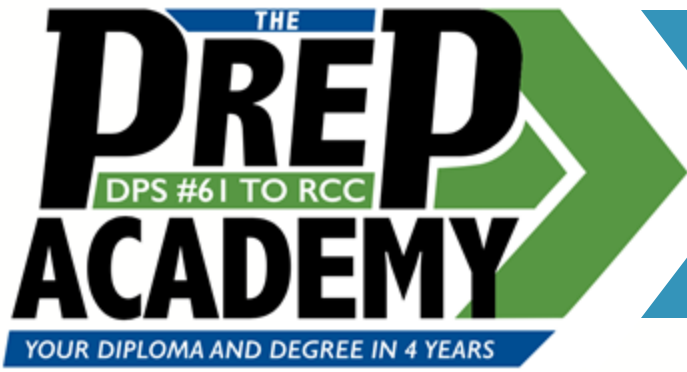
Other Information

- DPS electives are still **very** limited due to the tight schedule of meeting the requirements of both the degree and diploma. Each student should continue to work with their Counselor on their 4-Year Plan.

- **Band and AG courses cannot be guaranteed in your student's schedule. Please have this discussion with your student and make the decision of what's best for your student upfront.**

- Each student receives one MacBook!

- Transportation provided to RCC during junior and senior year.

- Prep Academy students will be taken on college visits.

- Students will have an adult Mentor for support + college mentors available to assist students.

- College Mentors at the buildings available to assist before and after school.

- *__Required GPA to remain in PA is 2.75 or higher at DPS and RCC. Students that do not maintain this GPA, will be transitioned out.__*

- *__Discipline, grade checks, and progress monitoring is on-going, and students must strive to represent themselves and the program at high standards, or students can be transitioned out of Prep Academy.__*

Required for Acceptance

Completed application includes:

- Attendance **required** at Student informational session
- Attendance **required** at Parent informational session
- One letter of recommendation **required - more are welcomed**
- Five paragraph essay **required** on why they want to be accepted into Prep Academy program and how they plan to succeed
- Report card

Completed application, along w supporting documents must be electronically submitted via School Mint. ***Only fully completed applications will be reviewed.***

- **February 21, 2025- Application Deadline in SchoolMint.**

- Reviewing committee will review grades and student assessment data (FastBridge and IAR) , discipline data, and attendance on each fully completed application submitted
- Building level recommendations will also be considered
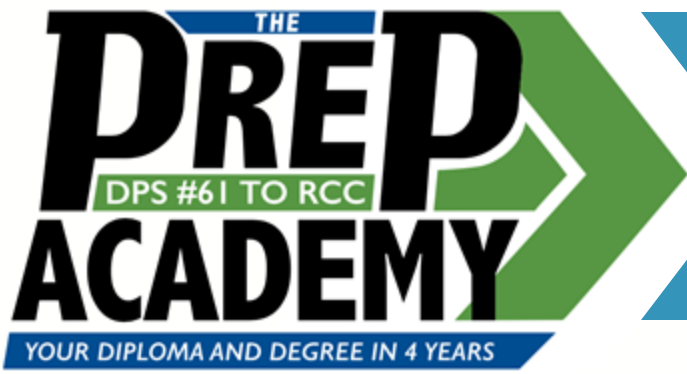
Next Steps for Rollout

Week of February 3	Student informational sessions at Stephen Decatur Middle School and all K-8 buildings
Week of February 10	Parent informational opportunities via webinar (see next slide)
February 21, 2025	APPLICATION DEADLINE- Submit electronically in SchoolMint
Weeks of March 3 and March 10	Committee reviews applications
March 21	Acceptance and Denial letters mailed
Week of April 14	Accepted student list sent to Richland Community College ***All students **accepted** must complete RCC online application; support will be given once students are at that point***
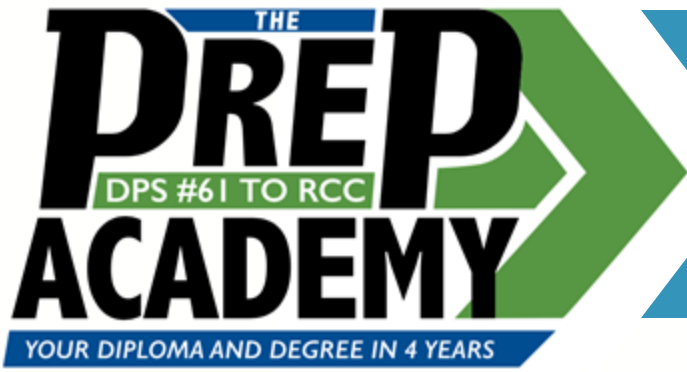
Parent Informational Sessions

Parents *must* register and attend one of the following informational sessions:

- **Tuesday, February 11, 2025 @ 12:00 p.m.**
- **Tuesday, February 11, 2025 @ 5:00 p.m.**
- **Thursday, February 13, 2025 @ 12:00 p.m.**
- **Thursday, February 13, 2025 @ 5:00 p.m.**

To register, visit www.dps61.org/prepacademy

How to apply!

Website

www.dps61.org/prepacademy
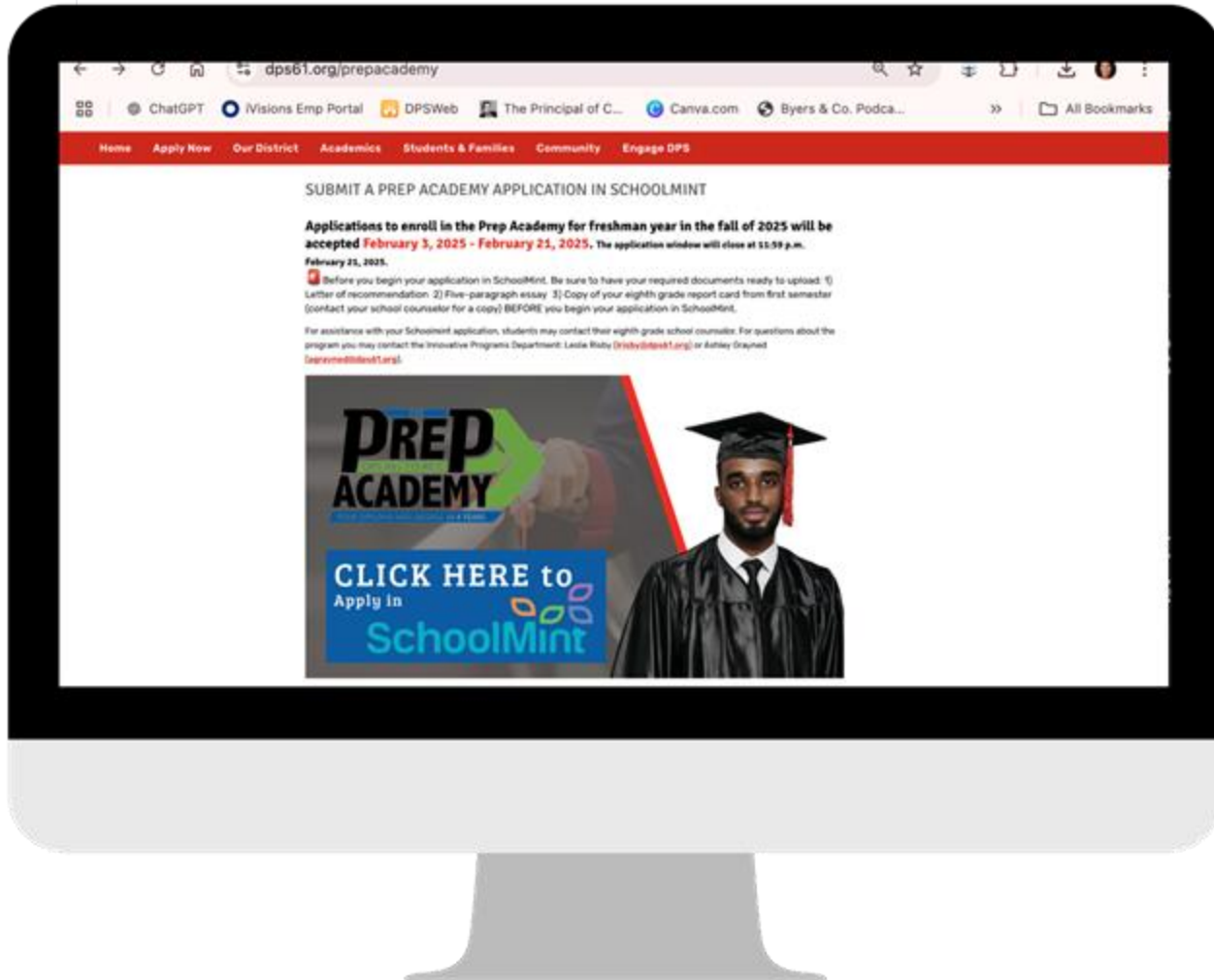
Scan the QR Code below!

First time using SchoolMint?
Create a Guardian Account by clicking on **Create an account**.

Be sure to check BOTH boxes in Preferred Communication to enable

☑ SMS Text AND Email Notifications

Returning SchoolMint User?
Use your login credentials when you initially created your guardian account.

📋 **TECH TIP:** Contact Leslie Risby lrisby@dps61.org if having trouble logging in your SchoolMint account.

Add Student to your Guardian Account **Click Get Started**	
Enter Student Information 📑**TECH TIP Address:** When typing the address, select the suggested addresses instead of typing out your address. 📑**TECH TIP DPS Student ID:** If you do not have a DPS Student ID, enter six zeros in this field.	

Prep Academy Application **Click Start**	**Select Enrollment Type:** 2025-2026 💬 Please select the type of form you would like to submit for **School Year 2025-2026** **Apply to More Schools** **Prep Academy Application** Start
Agree to Requirements & Policies **Check "I Agree" box and continue.**	**Requirements & Policies** Please fill out this form completely. Falsifications, misrepresentations, or omissions may disqualify your student. Information you supply will not be given to any other person/company for any purpose. Registration forms received unsigned, incomplete, or after the closing date may not be considered for acceptance. **I have read and agree to the Requirements & Policies** ☑ I Agree Continue
Step 1 Program Selection **Check the box for Prep Academy 2025-26.** Read the information below the Program Selection box. **Click (red box) Save & Continue**	**Prep Academy Application:** 2025-2026 1. Program Selection 2. Student Information 3. Guardian Information 4. REQUIRED Parent Zoom We... 5. Required Documentation 6. Signatures 7. Review and Send **Program Selection** Search by School or Program Name Filter & Sort · Map View **Prep Academy** Address: ... Distance: ... See Map Grades: ... **Prep Academy** ☑ Prep Academy 2025-26 The Prep Academy is a partnership between District #61 and Richland Community College, offering selected DPS students the opportunity to earn their high school diploma AND an Associate's Degree from Richland upon completion of the four-year program during high school, all for FREE. Save & End Save & Continue

Step 2 Student Information

Enter required fields.

Click (red box)
Save & Continue

Step 3 Guardian Information

📋 **TECH TIP Address:** When typing the address, select the suggested addresses instead of typing out your address.

Not required to enter a second guardian information.

Click (red box) Save & Continue

Step 4 Parent Webinar

Click on (red) Book Session

OPTION 1: Click on (red) Book Session to select the Parent Webinar you plan to attend.
Select the time you can attend by clicking on a time in red.

OPTION 2: Using the link "Click here to register" will <u>redirect</u> you to the Zoom website where you will register. This will provide you the link to use to join the webinar.

NOTE: Must go back to SchoolMint and finish the application after you leave the Zoom website.

Step 5 Required Documents

File types accepted to upload:
.doc, .docx, .pdf

More than one file can be updated for each document needed to go with your application.

Click (red box) Save & Continue

Step 6 Signatures
Read the context.
Type your name as a signature.
Check the box below the signature field.

Click (red box) Save & Continue

Step 7 Review and Submit

Review the information you provided in your application carefully.

Click on (red) Submit Application.

Parents can go in their SchoolMint account and View Submitted Forms and change the webinar date they would like to attend.
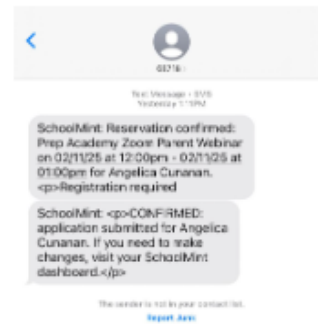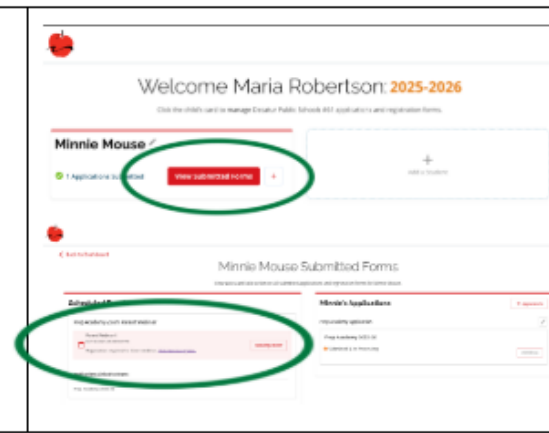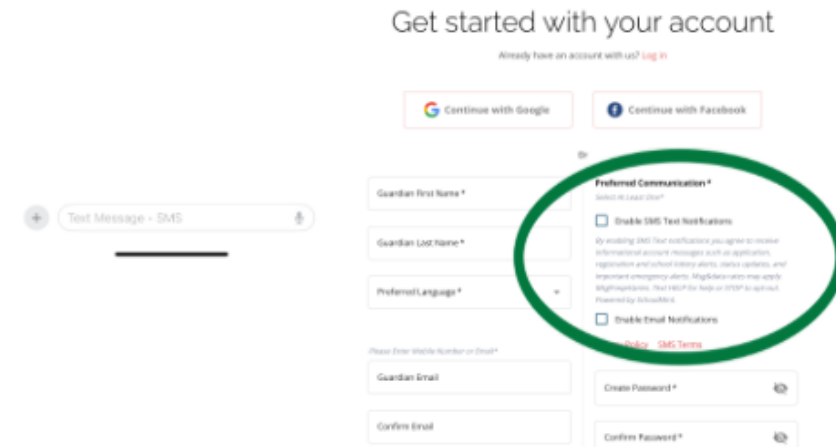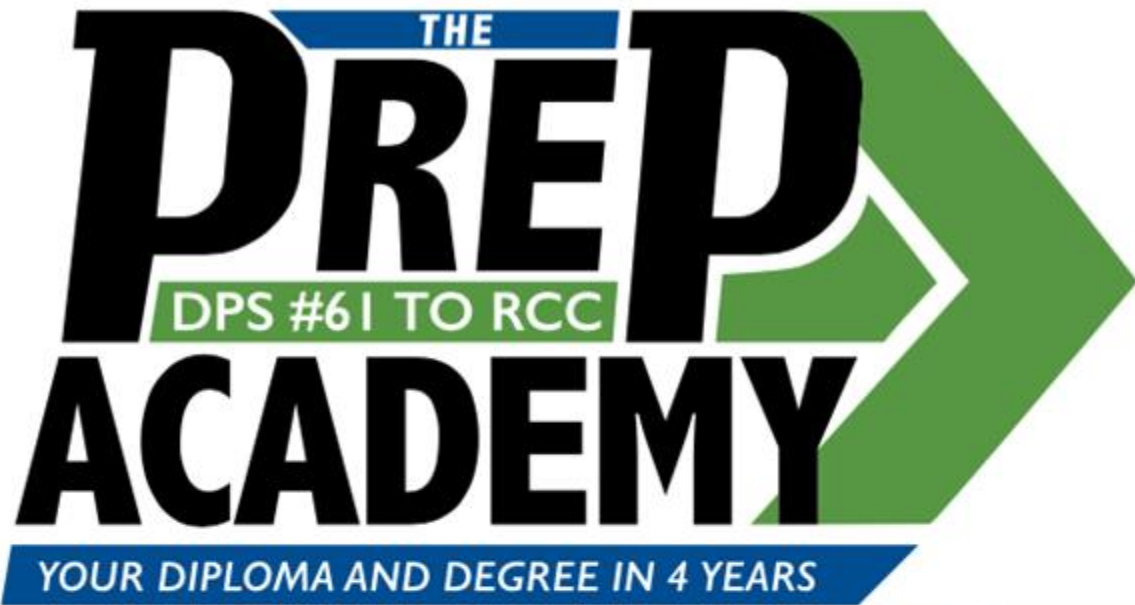

🚨 It is almost immediate, the parent/guardian will receive a SMS text and/or email CONFIRMATION the application was submitted.

The boxes checked when creating a SchoolMint account under the Prefered Communication will determine if a text or email or both will be sent.

For more information or to apply, contact:

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Strategic Planning
AGrayned@dps61.org

or

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Innovative Programs Supervisor
LRisby@dps61.org
(217) 362-3064 or (217) 855-8156