

# THE **PREP** DPS #61 TO RCC **ACADEMY**

YOUR DIPLOMA AND DEGREE IN 4 YEARS

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Enrollment Coach - RCC

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Dual Credit Coordinator - RCC

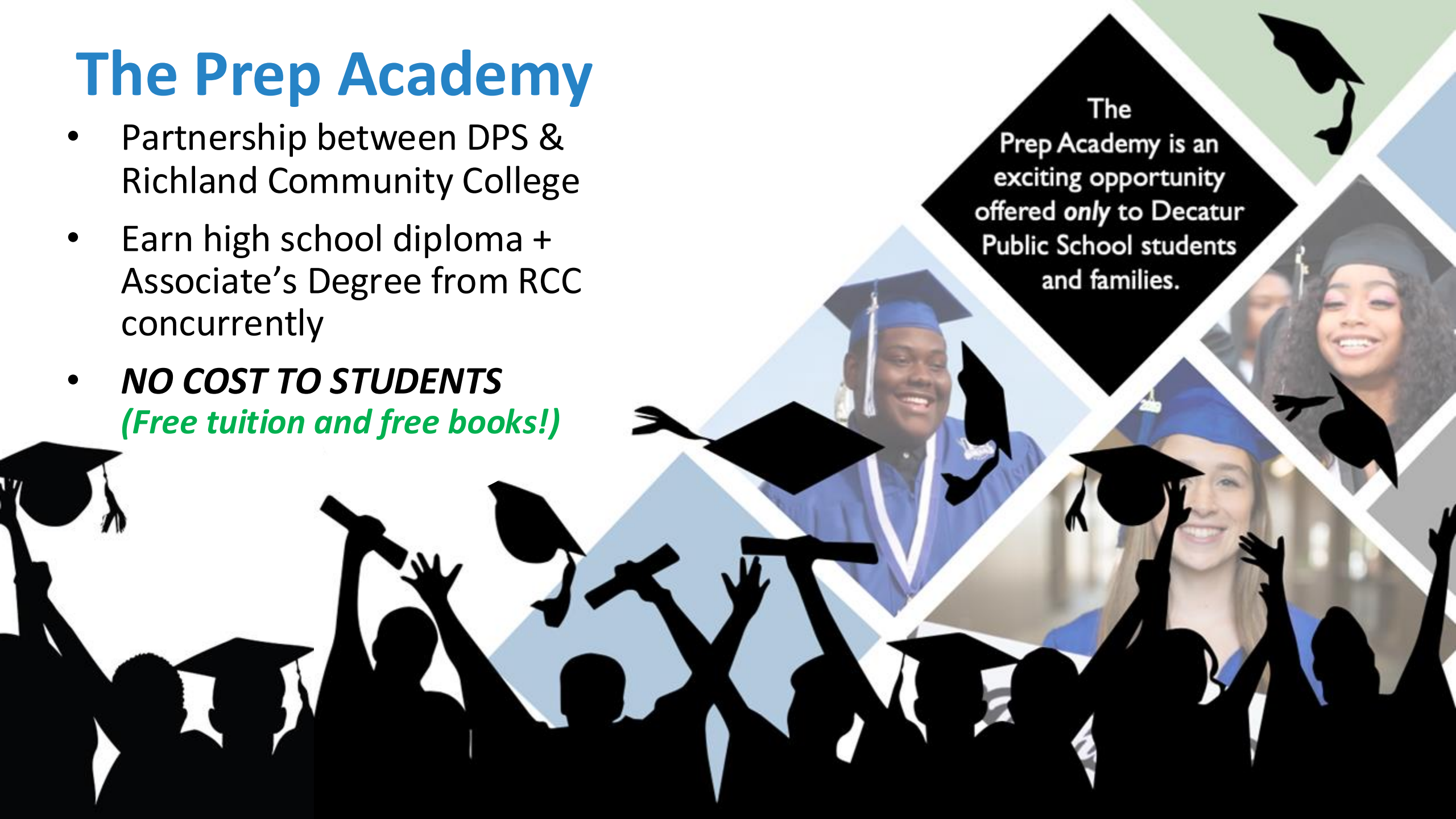


*Richland Grad*

# 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

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## 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:

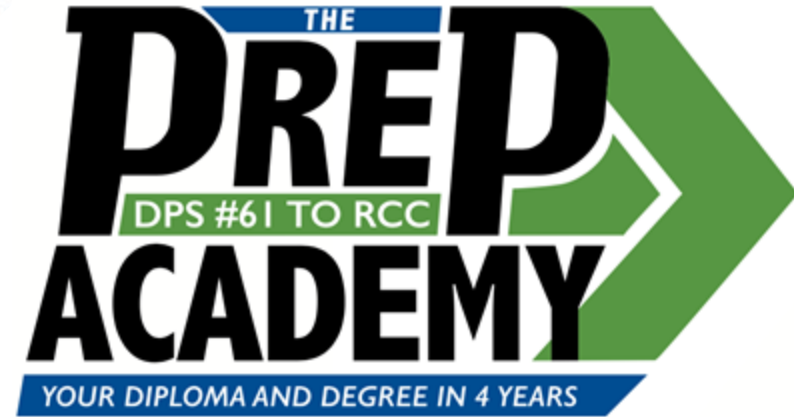
- Implement intentional learning experiences that develop each student’s core academics, personal strengths, and individual interests with the development of an Associate’s Degree upon graduation.

A large, stylized logo consisting of the letters 'S' and 'P' in a light gray color with a thick black outline. The letters are positioned on the right side of the slide, overlaid on a large, vibrant red apple graphic that serves as the background for the right half of the presentation. The apple has a small black stem and leaf at the top.



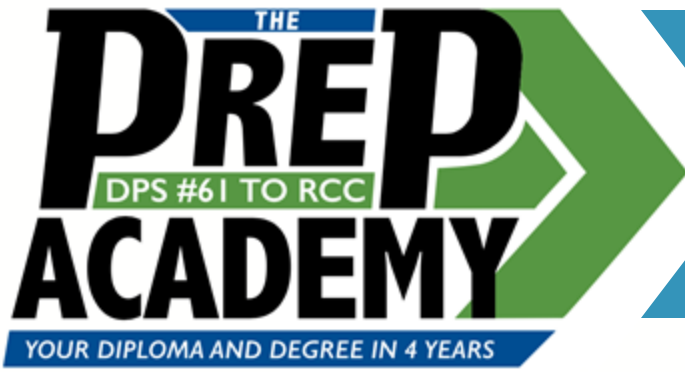


THE PREP ACADEMY IS AN  
EXCITING OPPORTUNITY  
OFFERED ONLY TO DECATUR  
PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS  
AND FAMILIES.



## 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.



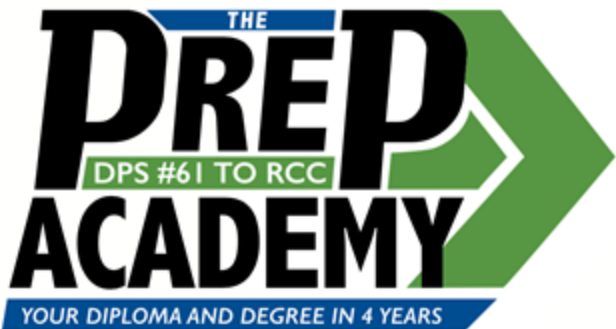
## Program Performance Indicators

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

## Guiding Principles

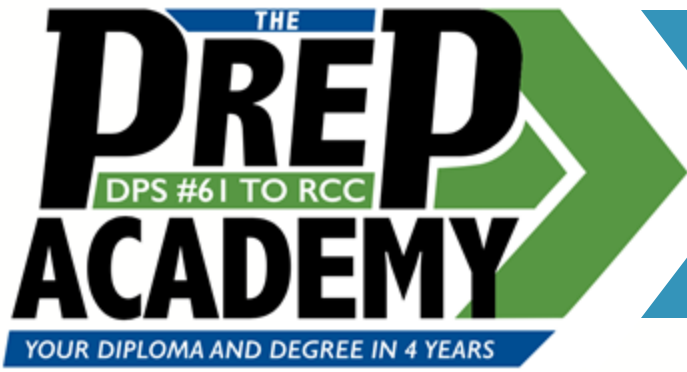
- Inclusion and diversity
- Accessibility for all students
- Real world applications
- Cost savings
- Personal coaching
- College preparedness
- Early career exposure
- Increased future employment opportunities



# 4-Year Sample Schedule

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 ( <i>if needed</i> )
	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:

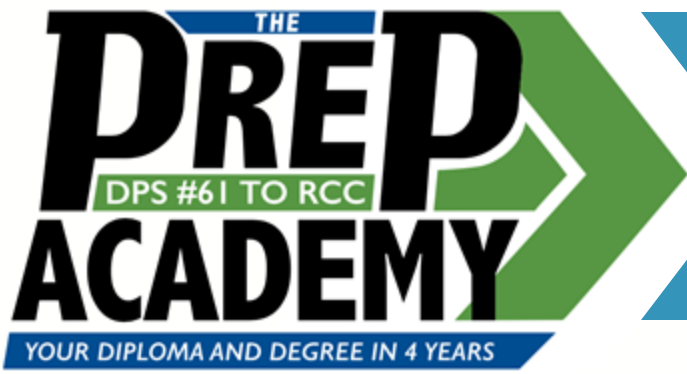
- Attendance **required** at Student informational session
- Attendance **required** at Parent informational session
- One letter of recommendation **required - more are welcomed**
- Five paragraph essay **required** on why they want to be accepted into Prep Academy program and how they plan to succeed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

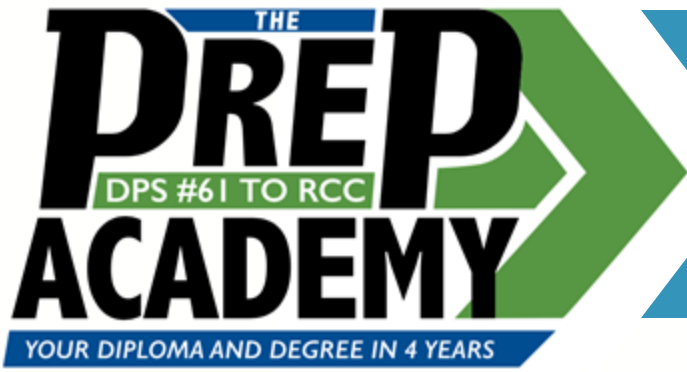
- Reviewing committee will review grades and student assessment data (FastBridge and IAR) , discipline data, and attendance on each fully completed application submitted
- Building level recommendations will also be considered





## Next Steps for Rollout

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



## Parent Informational Sessions

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

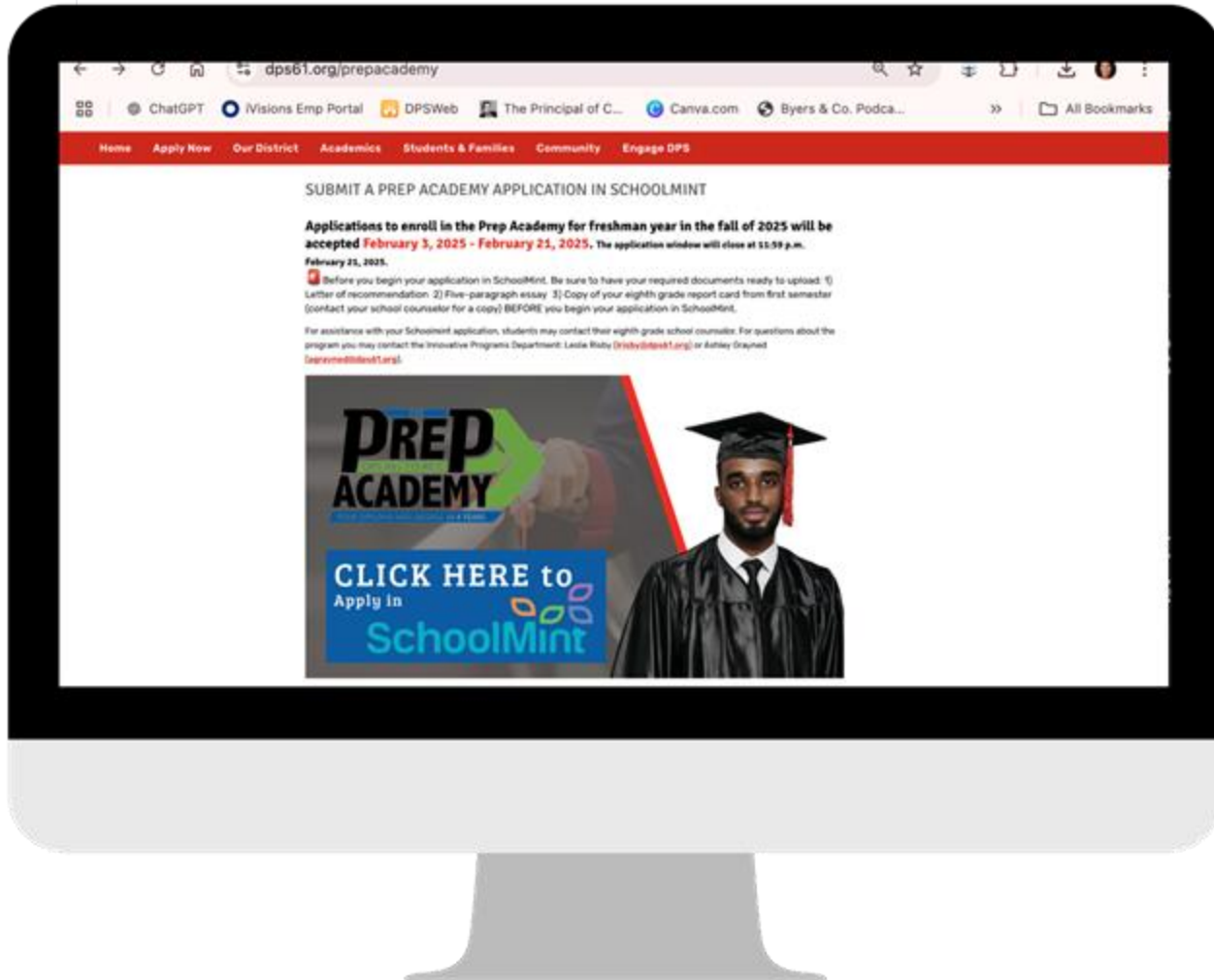
- Tuesday, February 11, 2025 @ 12:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, February 11, 2025 @ 5:00 p.m.
- Thursday, February 13, 2025 @ 12:00 p.m.
- Thursday, February 13, 2025 @ 5:00 p.m.

To register, visit [www.dps61.org/prepacademy](http://www.dps61.org/prepacademy)

# How to apply!

## Website

[www.dps61.org/prepacademy](http://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**

Get started with your account

Already have an account with us? [log in](#)



or

<input type="text" value="Guardian First Name *"/>	<b>Preferred Communication *</b> <small>Select at least One*</small> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Enable SMS Text Notifications</b> <small>By enabling SMS text notifications you agree to receive informational account messages such as applications, registration and school entry alerts, status updates, and important emergency alerts. Message rates may apply. Message rates may vary by carrier. For help on SMS opt-out, please see <a href="#">Privacy Policy</a> and <a href="#">SMS Terms</a>.</small> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Enable Email Notifications</b>
<input type="text" value="Guardian Last Name *"/>	
<input type="text" value="Preferred Language *"/>	
<small>Please Enter Mobile Number or Email*</small>	
<input type="text" value="Guardian Email"/>	<input type="password" value="Create Password *"/>
<input type="text" value="Confirm Email"/>	<input type="password" value="Confirm Password *"/>
<input type="text" value="Phone Number"/>	<input type="button" value="Create Account"/>

If you do not have an email address, please create one [here](#).

Guardian Log In

Need an account? [Create an account](#)

<input type="text" value="Enter Email or Phone Number *"/>	<input type="button" value="Continue with Google"/>
<input type="text" value="Enter Password *"/>	<input type="button" value="Continue with Facebook"/>
<input type="button" value="Login"/>	
<a href="#">Forgot password?</a>	<a href="#">Can't find account</a>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Keep me signed in</b>	

Navigation icons: Home, List, Add, Edit, Delete, More.

### Returning SchoolMint User?

Use your login credentials when you initially created your guardian account.

**TECH TIP:** Contact Leslie Risby [lrissy@dps61.org](mailto:lrissy@dps61.org) if having trouble logging in your SchoolMint account.



## Add Student to your Guardian Account


**Click Get Started**



Welcome Drew Robertson:

**2025-2026**


There are no students linked to your parent account yet. Not to worry, click Get Started below to add your first student.

 **Add a Student**

**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.

← Student Information: **2025-2026**

### Student Information

First Name \*

Michael

Last Name \*

Molina

Date of Birth \*

MM \*

DD \*

YYYY \*

10

27

2012

Country/State/Zip \*

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## 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 Zearn ID#...
5. Required Documentation
6. Signatures
7. Review and Send

#### Program Selection

Search by School or Program Name

11 programs selected

**Prep Academy**  
Address: 111 West Linn Street, Detroit  
Distance: 0.1 mi [View Map](#)  
Available to: 0  
[Click Program to Apply](#)

☒ Prep Academy  
☐ Prep Academy 2025-26

[Show List](#)

The Prep Academy is a partnership between District 881 and Richmond Community College, offering selected EPS students the opportunity to earn their high school diploma AND an Associate's Degree from Richmond upon completion of the four-year program during high school, all for FREE.

- There is no charge to participate, but space is limited!
- Interested students must: 1) complete and submit this application, 2) provide required documents (letter of recommendation and a free paragraph essay), and 3) attend a parent and student meeting (registration required).

The Prep Academy participants begin their freshman year on two high school campuses. The first year includes various college ready topics to aid with preparation for college-level coursework. Prep Academy participants attend classes on their high school campus and earn 12 college credit hours. Freshman Prep Academy students may transition to RMC's campus for

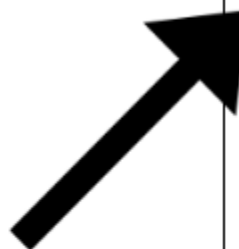
Save & Exit

Save & Continue

## Step 2 Student Information

Enter required fields.

Click (red box)  
Save & Continue



Prep Academy Application: 2025-2026

1. Program Selection

2. Student Information

3. Guardian Information

4. REQUIRED Parent Zoom Mtg...

5. Required Documentation

6. Signatures

7. Review and Send

**Student Information**

Submitting an application for the Prep Academy will require you to complete the following:

- Submit an Application for the Prep Academy with Parent Signature
- A Release and Letter of Intention
- A background check
- A letter from your current school indicating you meet the academic and behavioral requirements
- A letter from your current school indicating you meet the academic and behavioral requirements

Student Name\*

Student Email\*

Student Phone\*

Current School/Residing

Current School District/County\*

NAME of the District/County/State

Submit Address\*

1300 West 10th Street, Suite 100

Save & Exit 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



Prep Academy Application: 2025-2026

1. Program Selection

2. Student Information

3. Guardian Information

4. REQUIRED Parent Zoom Mtg...

5. Required Documentation

6. Signatures

7. Review and Send

**Guardian Information**

Guardian 1 Information

Guardian Name\*

Guardian Email\*

Guardian Phone\*

Relationship to Student\*

Guardian Address\*

Guardian City\*

Guardian State\*

Guardian Zip\*

Guardian 2 Information

Guardian Name\*

Guardian Email\*

Guardian Phone\*

Relationship to Student\*

Guardian Address\*

Guardian City\*

Guardian State\*

Guardian Zip\*

Save & Exit 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 redirect 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.

Prep Academy Application: 2025-2026

1. Program Selection

2. Student Information

3. Academic Information

4. REQUIRED Parent Zoom Webinar

5. Required Documentation

6. Signatures

7. Review and Send

**REQUIRED Parent Zoom Webinar**

Parents are required to attend AT LEAST ONE Prep Academy Parent Webinar to learn more about the Prep Academy program. Students are welcome to join with their parents.

The webinar will provide sample schedules and course descriptions for the student each year enrolled in the program, along with time for Q&A.

REQUIRED Parent Zoom Webinar

Prep Academy Zoom Parent Webinar **Book Session**

If you are unable to join a required scheduled Zoom Parent Information Session, please contact the SchoolMint Support Center at [schoolmint@schoolmint.org](mailto:schoolmint@schoolmint.org) or call 800-800-8000.

Save & Exit Book & Continue

**Prep Academy Zoom Parent Webinar**

Parents are required to attend AT LEAST ONE Prep Academy Parent Webinar to learn more about the Prep Academy program. Students are welcome to join with their parents. The webinar will provide sample schedules and course descriptions for the student each year enrolled in the program, along with time for Q&A.

Select a session below. Length: 60 min.

< Tue, Feb 11th, 2025 >

Location & Details	Time
Parent Webinar 1: Registration required for Zoom webinar. <a href="#">Click here to register.</a>	<b>12:00 PM</b>
Parent Webinar 2: Registration required for Zoom webinar. <a href="#">Click here to register.</a>	<b>05:00 PM</b>



## 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**

Prep Academy Application: 2025-2026

1. Program Selection

2. Student Information

3. Guardian Information

4. REQUIRED Parent Zooms...

5. Required Documentation

6. Signatures

7. Review and Send

### Required Documentation

5/7

Letter of Recommendation

+ Choose File

Upload doc, docx, pdf  
The Letter of Recommendation is required. Submitting additional letters are allowed. Letters must be individual copies of the student's academic record in middle, high school, or college.

Student Essay

+ Choose File

Upload doc, docx, pdf  
Students must write a two paragraph essay to accompany their application. Please include: 1) Who you are and why do you want to be a Prep Academy student? 2) What are your goals for the future?

Report Card

+ Choose File

Upload pdf  
The student must upload their last report card from the previous school year and the quarterly report card from the previous year. Copies may be requested by contacting the student's counselor.

[Save & Exit](#) [Save & Continue](#)

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Prep Academy Application: 2025-2026

1. Program Selection

2. Student Information

3. Guardian Information

4. REQUIRED Parent Zooms...

5. Required Documentation

6. Signatures

7. Review and Send

### Required Documentation

5/7

Letter of Recommendation

+ Choose File

Upload doc, docx, pdf  
The Letter of Recommendation is required. Submitting additional letters are allowed. Letters must be individual copies of the student's academic record in middle, high school, or college.

**Updated: Prep Academy Document.pdf** [View](#)

Student Essay

+ Choose File

Upload doc, docx, pdf  
Students must write a two paragraph essay to accompany their application. Please include: 1) Who you are and why do you want to be a Prep Academy student? 2) What are your goals for the future?

**Updated: Prep Academy Document.pdf** [View](#)

Report Card

+ Choose File

Upload pdf  
The student must upload their last report card from the previous school year and the quarterly report card from the previous year. Copies may be requested by contacting the student's counselor.

**Updated: Prep Academy Document.pdf** [View](#)

[Save & Exit](#) [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

Prep Academy Application: 2025-2026

1. Program Selection
2. Student Information
3. Guardian Information
4. REQUIRED Parent Zoom Webi...
5. Required Documentation
6. Signatures
7. Review and Send

### Signatures

The Prep Academy is a partnership between Decatur Public Schools (DPS) and Atlanta Community College (ACC). A completed application **WILL NOT** automatically guarantee admission to incoming year. You must verify that the information provided in this application is true, complete, and accurate to the best of your knowledge. Any misrepresentation or omission may result in disqualification from the program.

It is the policy of Decatur Public Schools not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, or disability in its programs or services. Decatur Public Schools will take appropriate action if a person's lack of English language skills will not be a barrier to admission and participation in all educational and non-educational programs. The District's Non-Discrimination Policy Coordinator or Complaint Manager has been designated to coordinate Title VI and Section 504 compliance.

The District will use the grievance procedure in Board of Education [Policy 4000](#) and/or grievance procedure in [Policy 4000](#) for all complaints. Grievance procedure for parents' complaints based on alleged violations of law or Board policy.

Any person who is not a student, employee, or third party on the District generally has alleged to conduct prohibited by the laws stated above or Board policy, including discrimination, harassment, or retaliation, or other law inquiries about the application of the laws stated above or Board policy should contact the Board's Non-Discrimination Policy Coordinator or Complaint Manager using the contact information on the form [https://www.dpsk12.org/parents](#).

Student Name\*

Maria Robertson

Date: 01/05/2025

*Maria Robertson*

☒ I agree to use my name to authenticate as an electronic signature.

Parent Name\*

Maria Moore

Date: 01/05/2025

*Maria Moore*

☒ I agree to use my name to authenticate as an electronic signature.

Completed application does not automatically gain admission to the Prep Academy program.

Save & Exit

Save & Continue

## Step 7 Review and Submit

Review the information you provided in your application carefully.

Click on (red) Submit Application.

Prep Academy Application: 2025-2026

1. Program Selection
2. Student Information
3. Guardian Information
4. REQUIRED Parent Zoom Webi...
5. Required Documentation
6. Signatures
7. Review and Send

### Review and Send

#### General Information

Student Name	Maria Moore
Registration Year	2025 - 2026
Student ID	9
School Applying To	Prep Academy 2025-26

#### Student Information

Student First Name	Maria
Student Last Name	Moore
DPS Student ID	900000
Current School Attending	Johnston
DPS High School Attending Next Year	HS
Parent of DPS Grade School Child	
Student Address	111 West 10th Street
Student Cell Phone # (Optional)	(404) 544-1234

#### Guardian Information

Guardian Information	
Guardian First Name	Maria
Guardian Last Name	Moore
Are you married to student?	Yes
Guardian Cell Phone	2123456789
Guardian Home Phone	(404) 544-1234
Guardian Email	maria.moore@acc.edu
Guardian Address	111 West 10th Street
Does this guardian live with the student?	Yes
Do you want to add a second guardian?	No

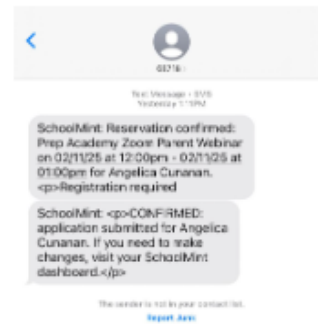
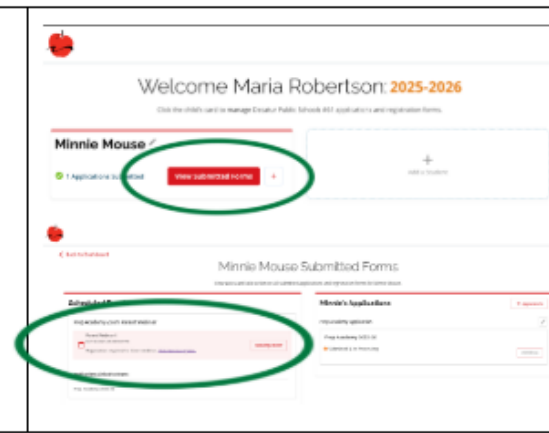
#### 3. REQUIRED Parent Zoom Webinar

Parents are required to attend AT LEAST ONE (1) webinar.

Save & Exit

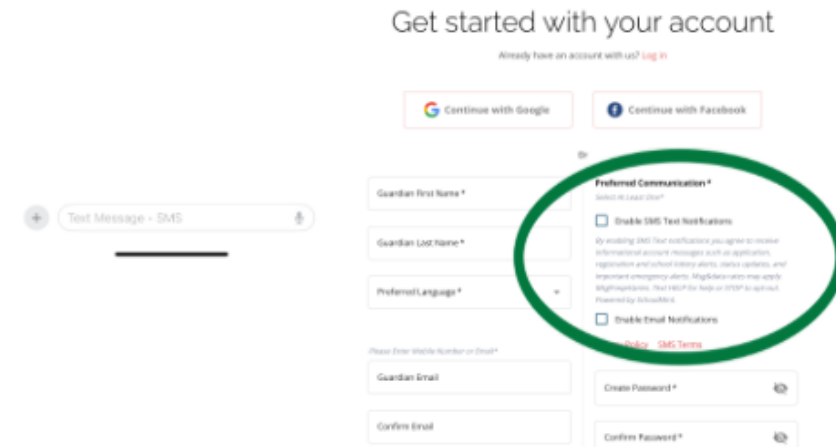
Submit Application

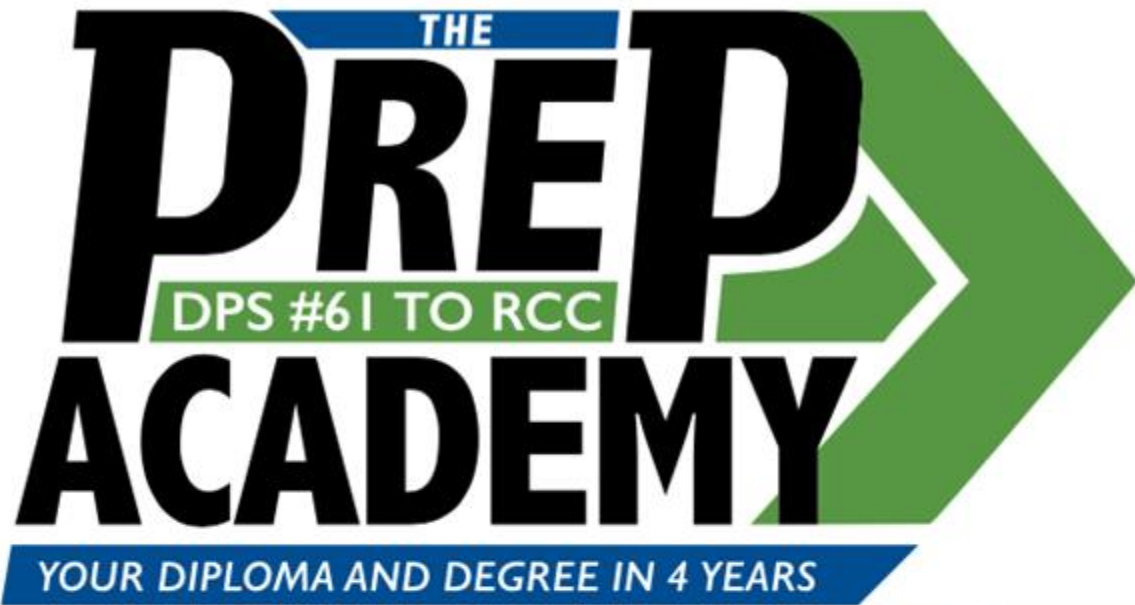
Parents can go in their SchoolMint account and View Submitted Forms and change the webinar date they would like to attend.



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 Preferred Communication will determine if a text or email or both will be sent.





For more information or to  
apply, contact:

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