

2014-15 School Quality Snapshot / MS

www.ms421.org

West Prep Academy (03M421)

Framework for Great Schools

Research shows that schools strong in the six areas are far more likely to improve student learning.



KEY:



School Overview

"At West Prep Academy (WPA), our magnet theme is: ""Youth Voice Through Youth Media."" West Prep Academy supports students in developing their unique voices, and provides them with a platform to create, evaluate, and share informed perspectives. Our students use many forms of media (radio, film, video, TV, print, social media, music, poetry, visual arts) to find connections between the curricula and the world around them. They also have the ability to see themselves as independent thinkers connected with their communities who have the power to initiate positive change in the world. West Prep Academy is an iZone 360 school for innovation and personalized student learning. WPA offers a nurturing, collaborative school environment. We use 21st century tools to keep parents updated, including the school messenger phone system, an up-to-date website, Jupiter grades online grading system, Twitter, and Facebook. ...

For more on this school, please see the Directory.

General Information

Principal: Carland Washington
 Grades served: 06,07,08,SE
 Enrollment: 195
 Shared Space: Yes
 Admissions methods: Unscreened



[150 West 105 Street](#)

Manhattan, NY 10025

212-280-8502

Student Demographics

Asian: 2% | Black: 54% | Hispanic: 37% | White: 5%
 English Language Learners: 7%
 Student with Special Needs: 30%

Staff Experience

Years of principal experience at this school: 1.2
 % of teachers with 3 or more years of experience: 28%

Attendance

Student Attendance: 92% | Students Chronically Absent: 25%
 Teacher Attendance: 97%

Activities and Sports

90% of students feel that this school offers a wide enough variety of programs, classes, and activities to keep them interested in school

Extracurricular Activities

Academic Support, Tae-Kwon Do, Cooking & Nutrition, Keyboarding/Typing, Specialized High School Preparation through Fordham STEP, Student Ambassadors, Student Council, Yearbook, Federal Magnet Program, iZone 360, Reelworks filmmaking, International service learning trips, Academic Advisory: Student-Led Conferences, Parsons School of Design Collaborative class

CHAMPS Sports

Boys: N/A

Girls: N/A

Co-Ed: Lacrosse



Student Achievement

This section presents information on this school's state test results, including student growth and performance, how students performed in core courses, and how well students are prepared for high school.

Growth on State Tests

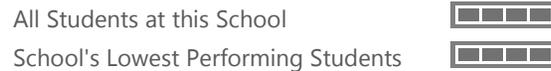
English

How well did this school help students improve on their State English tests?



Math

How well did this school help students improve on their State math tests?



Closing the Achievement Gap

How well did this school help different groups of students improve on their State English and math tests?



Performance on State Tests

English

10%

met State standards on the State English test; the average score at this school was 2.3 out of 4.5

City: 30%
District: 48%
Comparison Group*: 11%

Math

17%

met State standards on the State math test; the average score at this school was 2.5 out of 4.5

City: 31%
District: 42%
Comparison Group*: 10%

At this school, how did students from different starting points in 5th grade perform on state tests in 8th grade?

English			
Starting Point (5th grade level)	8th Grade Outcomes (on state ELA test)	City	
Level 3 or 4	N/A scored 3 or 4	70%	
Level 2	33% scored 3 or 4	28%	
Level 1	49% scored 2, 3, or 4	42%	

Math			
Starting Point (5th grade level)	8th Grade Outcomes (on state math test)	City	
Level 3 or 4	40% scored 3 or 4	57%	
Level 2	21% scored 3 or 4	14%	
Level 1	42% scored 2, 3, or 4	30%	

Passing Courses

Core Courses

84%

pass rate by this school's students in their math, English, social studies, and science classes

City: 92%
District: 94%
Comparison Group*: 86%

Next Level Readiness

76%

of this school's former 8th graders earned enough high school credit in 9th grade to be on track for graduation

City: 87%
District: 88%
Comparison Group*: 82%

Which high schools did students from this school most frequently attend?

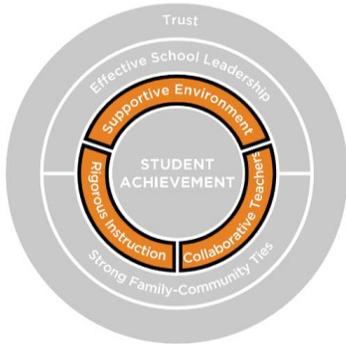
- 4% The Urban Assembly School For Green Careers
- 4% Frederick Douglass Academy
- 4% Thurgood Marshall Academy For Learning And Social Change
- 3% Stephen T. Mather Building Arts & Craftsmanship High School
- 3% Manhattan Business Academy

KEY:



*Comparison Group is made up of students from other schools across the city who were the most similar to the students at this school, based on their incoming test scores, disability status, economic need, and over-age status. Comparing the school's result to the "comparison group" result provides insight on how well the school is helping its students in light of their starting points and the challenges that they face.

The section ratings are based on more information than what is included in this summary report. For more information, please see: <http://schools.nyc.gov/Accountability>



¹ Quality Review

Ratings from an experienced educator who visited and evaluated the school on January 16, 2015

² Survey Response Rates

Teachers: 79%
Parents: 50%
Students: 78%

KEY:



Rigorous Instruction



Curriculum and instruction are designed to engage students, foster critical thinking skills, and are aligned to the Common Core.

Quality Review ¹

How interesting and challenging is the curriculum?



How effective is the teaching and learning?



How well does the school assess what students are learning?



Survey ²

90%

responded positively to questions about Rigorous Instruction

City: 87%
District: 87%

Selected Questions

90% of students say that they learn a lot from feedback on their work (City: 87%)

87% of students know what their teacher wants them to learn in class (City: 92%)

87% of teachers say that students build on each other's ideas during class discussions (City: 80%)

Collaborative Teachers



Teachers participate in opportunities to develop, grow, and contribute to the continuous improvement of the school community.

Quality Review

How well do teachers work with each other?



Survey

97%

responded positively to questions about Collaborative Teachers

City: 88%
District: 88%

Selected Questions

100% of teachers say that they work together to design instructional programs (City: 92%)

93% of teachers say that they have opportunities to work productively with colleagues in their school (City: 87%)

100% of teachers say that they feel responsible that all students learn (City: 88%)

Supportive Environment



The school establishes a culture where students feel safe, challenged to grow, and supported to meet high expectations.

Quality Review

How clearly are high expectations communicated to students and staff?



Survey

83%

responded positively to questions about Supportive Environment

City: 85%
District: 87%

Selected Questions

83% of students feel safe in the hallways, bathrooms, locker room, and cafeteria (City: 84%)

84% of students say that teachers notice when they are upset or having emotional difficulty (City: 75%)

83% of students say that the school provides useful information about the HS application and enrollment process (City: 89%)

Less Restrictive Environment

Movement of students with special needs to less restrictive environments





Effective School Leadership



School leadership inspires the school community with a clear instructional vision and effectively distributes leadership to realize this vision.

Survey ²

94%

responded positively to questions about Effective School Leadership

City: 83%
District: 85%

Selected Questions

- 100% of teachers say that the principal communicates a clear vision for this school (City: 90%)
- 100% of teachers say that curriculum and instruction are well coordinated across different grade levels (City: 84%)
- 91% of parents feel that the principal works to create a sense of community in the school (City: 91%)

Strong Family-Community Ties



The school forms effective partnerships with families and outside organizations to improve the school.

Survey

86%

responded positively to questions about Strong Family-Community Ties

City: 79%
District: 83%

Selected Questions

- 92% of parents say that school staff regularly communicate with them about how the staff can help their children learn (City: 90%)
- 96% of parents feel that teachers try to understand families' problems and concerns (City: 92%)
- 100% of teachers say that teachers at this school work closely with families to meet students' needs (City: 94%)

Trust



Relationships between administrators, educators, students, and families are based on trust and respect.

Survey

94%

responded positively to questions about Trust

City: 90%
District: 91%

Selected Questions

- 100% of teachers say that they trust the principal (City: 86%)
- 100% of teachers say that they trust each other (City: 87%)
- 95% of parents say that school staff work hard to build trusting relationships with them (City: 92%)
- 86% of students say that teachers treat them with respect (City: 86%)

Additional Information

This report is intended to provide a useful summary of school information, but it does not cover everything.

To learn more, parents are encouraged to review additional resources, such as the School Directory, the School Quality Guide, the Quality Review, and the NYC School Survey, and to speak with members of the school community.

² Survey Response Rates

Teachers: 79%
Parents: 50%
Students: 78%

KEY:



For more information on this document: [#http://schools.nyc.gov/NR/rdonlyres/F75142FB-AC20-46B0-BFF3-B6F3B05B88A3/0/SnapshotFamilyGuideMS2015.pdf#](http://schools.nyc.gov/NR/rdonlyres/F75142FB-AC20-46B0-BFF3-B6F3B05B88A3/0/SnapshotFamilyGuideMS2015.pdf#)

School Quality Guide: http://schools.nyc.gov/OA/SchoolReports/2014-15/School_Quality_Guide_2015_EMS_M421.pdf
 Quality Review: http://schools.nyc.gov/OA/SchoolReports/2014-15/Quality_Review_2015_M421.pdf
 NYC School Survey: http://schools.nyc.gov/OA/SchoolReports//2014-15/Survey_2015_M421.pdf
 NYC School Directory: <http://schools.nyc.gov/ChoicesEnrollment/Middle/Directory/school/?sid=7255>