

SY24-25 School Without Walls High School Admissions Process Rubric

For Grades: 9-12

About the School Without Walls Admissions Criteria: The student who succeeds at School Without Walls High School is responsible, confident, takes initiative, comes to school daily, focuses on academics, and demands their education. Additionally, students who are successful at School Without Walls are independent, have strong time management skills, and are interested in being a global citizen.

About the School Without Walls Admissions Process: At School Without Walls, we require all applicants to meet a minimum 3.0 GPA, based on their final grades from the previous school year. For ninth grade, the school will review the GPA and recommendation letters. The recommendation letters for the top students with the highest GPA on a 4.0 scale (3.0 minimum required) will be reviewed and this will determine who is invited to participate in an interview. Students who are invited to interview must participate to move through the process including participating in an onsite writing sample. Interviews for 10th-12th grade will be conducted based on the number of available seats for the upcoming school year and the number of applications received.

Each component of the admissions process is scored and weighted according to the chart below. These scores are combined to provide each student with a cumulative application score. Only students who complete the interview may be eligible. Eligibility is determined by how students are ranked according to their cumulative application score.

Admissions Component	Weight	Notes
Report Card Review (Minimum 3.0 GPA)	Threshold criteria	<p>School Without Walls reviews only grades as part of the report card review. At School Without Walls, we require that incoming applicants have a GPA of 3.0 or higher on the final report card of the previous school year, to ensure incoming students are prepared for success in our rigorous program.</p> <p>For ninth grade, the top students with the highest GPAs will be invited to interview. Review how GPA was calculated last year, which will remain the same for SY24-25.</p> <p>The school acknowledges that some schools use a Pass/Fail grading scale. For those applicants, please note that the SWWHS team may reach out to school counselors, deans, school leaders, etc., to receive conversion scales or context to aid in reviewing the report cards in a manner that is fair and is equitable to other applicants. Please note that the school reviews all applicants the same and special requests for additional points will not be accommodated when completing the conversion to the 4.0 scale.</p>

		Please note the threshold will be determined after all Lottery round applications have been received and reviewed following the February 1 deadline.
Recommendation Letter Review	(30/100 points)	School Without Walls uses recommendations to better understand a student’s experience at school and to provide context to their academic outcomes. Recommendations are a critical element to getting to know a student and their experiences. School Without Walls requests two (2) recommendations, each worth a maximum of 15points. We strongly encourage students and families to follow up with the individuals submitting recommendations on their behalf and to check the accuracy of recommender emails to ensure we have the most complete picture of the student as possible. However, students will not be penalized for incomplete or missing recommendations and can be evaluated to move on to the interview stage based on the recommendations that have been submitted.
Based on GPA and recommendation letter review, the top students in each grade are invited to participate in an interview.		
Interview and Writing Sample	(60/100 points)	<p>School Without Walls believes strongly in identifying students with a passion for our program and commitment to community and who demonstrate perseverance.</p> <p>Top students based on GPA and recommendation letter review will be invited, along with their parent/guardian, for a panel interview. The parent/guardian is not scored in this process. The panel consists of faculty, staff, and current students. We ask that students and parents do their best by being themselves!</p> <p>Applicants will also be required to complete an onsite writing prompt as part of the interview.</p> <p>The writing prompt is administered to each candidate at the completion of their interview. The rubric and writing prompt will be provided for each candidate at the beginning of the essay writing portion of their interview. The purpose of the writing sample is for School Without Walls to assess each candidate’s writing ability, to include grammar, writing style, creativity, reading comprehension, and analytical skills.</p> <p>All applicant interviews and writing samples will be assessed on the same internal rubric, with scores counting for 60% of a student’s score.</p> <p>Based on health guidance and family circumstances, interviews and writing samples may be conducted virtually for SY24-25, on an as needed basis and based on the circumstance. DCPS remains committed to monitoring and following health guidance.</p>



GPA and Recommendation Letter Score	~% (10/100 points)	All students who complete the interview will be provided with an additional score based on their GPA, along the following scale: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 3.9 and higher - 10 points• 3.8 - 3.89 - 8 points• 3.7 - 3.79 - 6 points• 3.4 - 3.69 - 4 points• 3.0 - 3.39 - 2 points
Interview, GPA, and Recommendation Letter scores are added together to give each student a cumulative application score. All students who complete the interview are eligible and are ranked in order according to their cumulative application score.		