

## Location and Description

The Rochester City School District (RCS D) is one of the largest urban districts in New York State and is located in Rochester, New York. Rochester City School District serves a diverse population of students in grades PreK -12 at 55 Pre-K sites, 46 elementary and secondary schools, and 10 alternative programs. There are 26, 078 students enrolled in the district. The demographics are as followed: Black or African American - 53.1%, Hispanic - 32.7%, White -9.6%, Asian -2.9%, and Other - 1.7%.

**Mission:** To foster students' individual talents and abilities in a nurturing environment of equity.

**Vision:** The Rochester City School District's vision is to ensure all students have equitable access to high-quality education and graduate each student as a productive member of society.

## School Mission

School Without Walls' graduation criteria is based not only on meeting NYS graduation standards but also School Without Walls standards which include earning 25.5 credits, passing a year-long Senior Project, and four Performance Based Assessment Tasks. The following is a more detailed description:

## School

School Without Walls is a comprehensive four-year public high school enrolling 260 students in grades 9-12. The school opened in the fall of 1971 and is accredited by the New York State Education Department and holds membership in the New York Performance Standards Consortium. This Consortium was founded two decades ago on the belief that there was a better way to assess student learning than dependence upon standardized testing.

Instead of basing a student's future on a one-day (or two- or three-day) test, an assessment system should reflect a fuller picture of what students know and can do.

The Consortium's system is based on in-depth literacy, mathematical problem-solving, application of the scientific method, social studies research, a span of mediums for exhibiting learning, and a chance for students to have a voice and proud ownership of their work.

## Program Objectives

To provide students and faculty with the opportunities to pursue individual interests and needs.

To foster student self-reliance by requiring the student to make relevant, responsible choices, and to face the real consequences of their choices.

To lead the student directly to discover the relationship between school learning and the real world.

To utilize the total community and all of its resources as the basis for a student's learning experience.

To aid the student in understanding basic cultural concepts, skills, and values necessary for life in a complex urban society.

To continue to emphasize basic learning and knowledge necessary for becoming an effective citizen; to provide for their acquisition in a variety of ways.

To provide a laboratory for the purpose of educational research and development.

## Curriculum

The academic program is primarily learner-centered. As a result, many of our courses do not fit under conventional headings. In each course or independent involvement, studies are expected to focus on all aspects of student-as-worker, citizen, and scholar. Students and staff are responsible for collaborative planning to develop and articulate academic goals and to report progress in a variety of ways. One aspect of this reporting is the ten week Student Progress Report.

We offer five kinds of classes which all students must take:

1. **EXTENDED CLASSES:** Interdisciplinary approaches to issues in contemporary society, in which they probe the dimensions of the topic's problems and concerns. Inevitably, they examine the historical cross-cultural, political, economic, and social roots and ramifications of the issue. Most academic disciplines are applied, but those of English and the Social Studies predominate. Since students are required to spend at least 6.5 hours per week in their extended classes, they can earn a total of 1.5 elective credits per year.
2. **OTHER CLASSES:** Cover a full range of topics and disciplines; they meet for 3 hours each week. (I.e. Math, Science, English, Social Studies, Electives, Art, etc...)
3. **INDEPENDENT STUDY:** In which students create and staff advises and approves individualized courses of study for credit.
4. **OFF CAMPUS CLASSES:** These are organized classes offered by colleges, organizations, or other public high schools, which some of our students choose to attend with Advisor and Counselor approval.
5. **COMMUNITY SERVICE, INTERNSHIPS, AND WORK STUDY:** Students earn credit by working or creating a project that they accomplish in collaboration with the organization

## Curriculum Information

AP® courses currently offered: English Language and Composition and English Literature AP is an open-enrollment program.

## Grading and Ranking

### GRADING SYSTEM

We do not assign grades. In each course or independent activity at SWW, students are evaluated in writing by an instructor. This evaluation contains statements defining the goals, expectations, activities, and materials dealt with in the course, as well as comments on student achievement, involvement, participation, growth, and skill development.

The letter or numerical grades on the student's transcript were earned at a school other than SWW.

### CLASS RANKING

We do not rank students because:

1. Our program operates without letter or number grades.
2. Our philosophy is such that we encourage students to seek knowledge and understanding that is motivating, self-satisfying, and important for effective functioning in our society; not for the purpose of comparing their abilities to other students.

## Course Data and Post-Secondary Options

- 65 Cohort 2018 potential graduates
- 67 Cohort 2017 potential graduates; 62 graduated. Graduation rate of 92%
- 19% matriculated to 4 year college
- 25% matriculated in 2 year college
- 55% went to work; technical instruction
- 1% went to Military

## National Assessments

SWW National Assessment data is not available due to COVID-19.

### Average SAT Scores

	RCS D	State
Reading & Writing	467	528
Mathematics	451	523
Cumulative	917	1052

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## Graduation Requirements:

**Please note that SWW students must meet NYS graduation and SWW requirements.**

**Scholars must earn 25.5 credits to graduate.**

COURSE	CREDITS
English	4
Soc. Studies	4
Math	3
Science	3
Health	.5
Physical Education	2
Art/Music	1
Physical Education	2
Electives	3.5
LOTE	1
Min. Credits Required	25.5

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**\*\* Regents Exam/PBATS**

**\*\*\* Senior Project**

**\*Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic Community Service is slightly altered for students in the 2019-2020 and the 2020-2021 school year.**

**\*\* Because of a waiver from the NYS Department of Education, students must pass only the Regents Comprehensive Exam in English. Although students do not take traditional Regents they must take and pass four Exit Level PBAT's (Project Based Assessment Tasks) in addition to their graduation requirements.**

**\*\*\* Candidates for graduation must demonstrate mastery of independent learning and problem solving by undertaking a major project. They must present the results of this project to a committee of two SWW staff members, two students, and two community representatives. This committee evaluates both the process and the product. In order to qualify for graduation, the student must receive five affirmative votes.**

Superintendent of Schools  
Lesli C. Myers-Small, Ed.D.

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