

SY25-26 and SY26-27 School Without Walls High School Admissions Process Rubric

For Grades: 9-12

Note: This rubric will be in effect for SY25-26 and SY26-27 admissions.

About the School Without Walls Admissions Criteria: The applicant 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, applicants 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. However, due to the volume of applications received and the competitive nature of our process, we have found that our most qualified applicants typically have a 3.5 or higher, therefore this is the recommended GPA for applicants. For ninth grade, the school will review the GPA and recommendation letters. The recommendation letters for the top applicants with the highest GPA on a 4.0 scale will be reviewed and this will determine who is invited to participate in an interview. Applicants who are invited to interview must participate in an on-site 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. The scores from the components of the admissions process are combined to provide each applicant with a cumulative application score. Only applicants who complete the interview may be found to be eligible. All eligible applicants are ranked according to the total number of points earned.

Admissions Component	Weight	Notes
Report Card Review (Minimum 3.0 Required GPA, 3.5 Recommended 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, but a 3.5 is highly recommended on the final report card of the previous school year, to ensure incoming applicants are prepared for success in our rigorous program.</p> <p>For ninth grade, the top applicants will be invited to interview. Review how GPA is calculated per the DCPS grading policy found here.</p> <p>The school acknowledges that some schools use a Pass/Fail grading scale. For those applicants, please note that the School Without Walls 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</p>

		<p>equitable to other applicants. Please note that the school reviews all applicants the same and special requests for additional points will <u>not</u> be accommodated when completing the conversion to the 4.0 scale.</p> <p>Please note the minimum GPA threshold will be determined annually after all lottery round applications have been received and reviewed following the My School DC application deadline.</p>
Recommendation Letter Review	30/100 points	<p>School Without Walls uses recommendation letters to better understand an applicant’s experience at school and to provide context to their academic outcomes. Recommendations are a critical element to getting to know an applicant and their experiences. School Without Walls requests two (2) recommendations, each worth a maximum of 15 points.</p> <p>We strongly encourage applicants 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 applicant as possible. However, applicants will not be penalized for incomplete or missing recommendations and can be evaluated to move on to the interview stage based on the recommendation letters that have been submitted.</p>
Based on GPA and recommendation letter review, the top applicants in each grade are invited to participate in an interview.		
Family Interview and On-Site Writing Sample	60/100 points	<p>School Without Walls believes strongly in identifying applicants with a passion for our program and commitment to community and who demonstrate perseverance.</p> <p>Top applicants based on GPA and recommendation letter review will be invited, along with their parent/guardian, for a panel interview. or participate in Q&A sessions with applicant ambassadors and/or PTO members. The interview panel consists of faculty, staff, and current applicants. We ask that applicants and parents do their best by being themselves!</p> <p>The accompanying adult’s participation is not factored into scoring in any way.</p> <p>Applicants will also be required to complete an on-site writing sample as part of the interview.</p> <p>The on-site writing sample is administered to each candidate at the completion of their interview. The rubric and writing sample will be provided for each candidate at the end of the interview. The purpose of the writing sample is for School Without Walls to assess each candidate’s skills as they relate to written expression, use of language and conventions.</p>

		<p>All applicant interviews and writing samples will be assessed on the same internal rubric, with scores counting for 60 points of an applicant’s score.</p> <p>Based on health guidance and family circumstances, interviews (which include the completion of the on-site writing sample) may be requested to be conducted virtually for SY25-26.</p>
GPA and Recommendation Letter Score	10/100 points	<p>All applicants who complete the interview will be provided with an additional score based on their GPA, along the following scale:</p> <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
<p>Interview, GPA, and Recommendation Letter scores are added together to give each applicant a cumulative application score. All eligible applicants are ranked according to the total number of points earned.</p>		