DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

SY27-28 and SY28-29 School Without Walls High School: Admissions Process Rubric

For Grades: 9-12*

Note: This rubric is in effect for SY27-28 and SY28-29 admissions cycles.

About School Without Walls High School Admissions Criteria: The applicant who succeeds at School Without Walls High School is responsible, confident, takes initiative, comes to school daily, and focuses on academics. Additionally, applicants who are successful at School Without Walls are independent, have strong time management skills, and are interested in being empowered to become thoughtful, informed global citizens who contribute positively to the world.

About School Without Walls High School Admissions Process: Schools Without Walls requires all applicants to meet a minimum 3.0 GPA, based on their final grades from the previous school year. Due to the volume of applications received, the most qualified applicants typically have a GPA of 3.5 or higher. Therefore, 3.5 is the minimum recommended *GPA for* all applicants. Designated school staff will review the report cards for all applicants to determine a minimum threshold GPA on a 4.0 scale. GPA is calculated in accordance with the DCPS grading policy. As a next step, recommendation letters are reviewed for applicants who met the minimum threshold GPA. Each student receives a combined score (GPA review + recommendation letter review). The combined score will determine which students are invited to participate in an interview. All recommendation content and scores are confidential and will not be shared with anyone including applicants, families, or staff at the student's current school, etc. Applicants who are invited to interview will also participate in an on-site writing prompt. Accommodations may be requested for any portion of the admissions process, and families may contact the Admissions Director/POC to discuss accommodation options.

Each component of the admissions process is scored and weighed according to the chart below. The scores from each component of the admissions process are combined to provide each applicant with a cumulative application score. There is a total of 100 possible points to be earned in the admissions process. All applicants are ranked according to the total number of points earned. **Specific details related to an applicant's admissions process and eligibility results will remain confidential.**

Admissions Component	Weight	Notes
Report Card Review (Minimum 3.0 Required GPA, 3.5 Recommended GPA)	10/100 points	School Without Walls reviews grades only as part of the report card review. School Without Walls requires incoming applicants to have a minimum GPA of 3.0. However, a 3.5 GPA is highly recommended on the final report card of the previous school year, to ensure incoming applicants are prepared for success in the school's rigorous program. Both report cards must be submitted for the application to be considered for admission. GPA is calculated per the DCPS grading policy.

*10th-12th grade interviews will only be conducted based on the number of available seats for the upcoming school year.

		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 accordance with the DCPS grading policy. The school reviews all applicants using the same process, including international students. Special requests for additional points will not be accommodated when completing the conversion to the 4.0 scale. The minimum GPA threshold which is used to identify all applicants that are eligible to interview is determined annually once the My School DC lottery process is complete. GPAs are scored according to the following scale: • 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
Recommendation Letter Review	30/100 points	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, worth a maximum of 30 points (15 points per recommendation). All recommendation content and scores are confidential and will not be shared with anyone including applicants, families, and staff at the student's current school. Applicants can log into their My School DC lottery application to check the status of their recommendation submissions at any time and send reminders to recommenders. Regular notifications are sent to recommenders and families when a recommendation is missing or incomplete. Applicants and families are strongly encouraged to follow up with the individuals submitting recommendations on their behalf and to check the accuracy of recommender emails. **Missing recommendations ultimately will receive zero points.**
Based on GPA and recommendation letters, the top applicants in each grade are invited to participate in an interview component of the admissions process.		

Family Interview	30/100 points	School Without Walls strives to identify applicants with a passion for learning, commitment to community, and who demonstrate perseverance. Top applicants, along with their parent/guardian, are invited for a 10–15-minute panel interview. The interview panel consists of faculty, staff, and current students. Applicants and parents are encouraged to do their best to be themselves. The accompanying adult's participation is not factored into scoring. Students for whom an accompanying adult is unable to participate will not be penalized.
On-Site Writing Prompt (completed during the Interview)	30/100 points	Applicants will also be required to complete an on-site writing prompt on the same day as the interview. The purpose of the writing prompt is for School Without Walls to assess each candidate's skills as they relate to written expression, use of language, and proper use of grammar. The on-site writing prompt is administered via paper to each candidate at the completion of their interview.
GPA, recommendation letter, interview, and writing sample scores are added together to give each applicant a cumulative application score. All applicants are ranked according to the total number of points earned for determination in the My School DC Lottery.		