



Frequently Asked Questions

What is a charter school?

Paul Cuffee is a public school for Providence children that operates independently of the Providence public school district. Like all public schools, Paul Cuffee is free and accepts students regardless of socio-economic status, academic ability or ethnicity. The Rhode Island Department of Education requires annual reports from charter schools that demonstrate continuously improving academic achievement, highly qualified teachers and leadership accountability. Parents and students choose to attend Paul Cuffee, instead of one of their district schools, because of its reputation for success, innovative programs, excellent teachers, culture of respect, small class size, and other features that meet their needs.

Who can attend Paul Cuffee School?

School-age children residing in the City of Providence, Rhode Island.

How old must my child be to be admitted into Kindergarten?

Students must be 5 years old on or before September 1st to be admitted into Kindergarten and 6 years old on or by September 1st to be admitted into 1st grade.

How are students admitted to Paul Cuffee School?

According to the Rhode Island Law, students are admitted through an annual state-monitored open lottery when more students apply than can be accommodated.

When will the lottery take place?

The lottery will be held on April 7, 2010.

Is there any preference for siblings of enrolled students at Paul Cuffee School?

Yes. Enrollment preference is given to applicants whose siblings are already enrolled at the school. When a lottery takes place siblings will be admitted first if space is available.

Can I schedule a class visit?

After the lottery in April and once your child has been offered a spot for the upcoming school year, arrangements can be made for a class visit. Because we receive about 500 applications each year, we can only arrange class visits *after* acceptance.

How many openings does the Paul Cuffee School anticipate for the 2010-2011 School year?

The Paul Cuffee School anticipates approximately 50 openings in Kindergarten, 6 openings in 6th Grade, 10 openings in 9th grade and limited openings in all other grades.

How many students are in a class at Paul Cuffee School?

Class size in Kindergarten through 5th grade is eighteen. At the Middle School the average class size is eighteen. We anticipate the incoming 9th grade class size to be twenty.

What are the school hours?

8:00 am – Breakfast (8:10 at Middle School) (breakfast is provided under the National Lunch program.)
8:30 am – Classes begin
3:00 pm – Dismissal for bus students and Pick-Up students (3:15 at Middle School)

Does Paul Cuffee School provide transportation?

Yes. Paul Cuffee offers bus transportation for eligible students through the Rhode Island Department of Transportation. Eligibility is determined by the distance from household to school. For Kindergarten – 6th grade students must live one mile away or more. Seventh and 8th graders must live a mile and a half to be eligible. Ninth graders must live 3 miles away to qualify for a free RIPTA bus pass.

Does Paul Cuffee School have an after-school program?

Yes. The Afterschool Club serves students in grades Kindergarten through 8th grade. The program runs from 3:00 pm – 5:20 pm. Fees are based on income. Visit the Paul Cuffee School website www.paulcuffeeschool.org for further details.