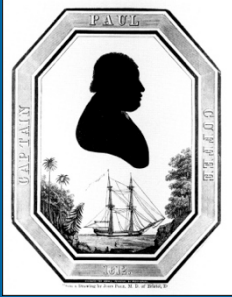


FACT SHEET



Who was Paul Cuffee?

Born in 1759, Paul Cuffee was a shipbuilder, sea captain, and successful merchant of African and Native American descent. During a time in this country's history when many people who shared his racial background were enslaved and did not have access to public education, Paul Cuffee built a racially integrated school in his hometown of Westport, Massachusetts. In the spirit of Paul Cuffee's life, PCS teaches students to value personal initiative and social responsibility.

What Is a Public Charter School?

Paul Cuffee School (PCS) is a public charter school of choice. Like all public schools, PCS is free and accepts students by lottery regardless of socioeconomic status, academic ability, or ethnicity.

Charter schools are accountable to the Rhode Island Department of Education, which requires annual reports to ensure continuously improving academic achievement, highly qualified teachers, and leadership accountability. Students and their families choose PCS instead of one of their district schools because of its reputation for success, innovative programs, excellent teachers, culture of respect, and other features that meet their needs.

Curriculum

A PCS education provides a strong academic foundation that emphasizes literacy, math, and science to help students meet or exceed national education standards. Students also participate in physical education, music, art, computer, and Spanish classes each week, depending on grade level. Woven throughout the curriculum is the study of marine biology, ecology, and maritime history. These subjects may be taught across several disciplines, integrating math, history, science, and art to deepen students' knowledge of a particular unit of study. Because experiential learning enhances students' ability to understand academic material, solve problems, and think critically, our students participate in a number of field trips and connect with local educational organizations such as historical societies, museums, and colleges to enrich their ability to grasp complex concepts and think creatively.

The school's education philosophy recognizes that children's social and emotional wellbeing are paramount to their success in school and in life. All K–5 PCS teachers have been trained in a social-emotional curriculum called Responsive Classroom. A similar program, Developmental Designs®, is used in grades 6–12. An important part of this philosophy is establishing a series of practices, such as morning meeting, to create a calm and predictable learning environment. Teachers interact with students respectfully, while modeling and facilitating peer communication, problem-solving, and other social skills that are key to maintaining our inclusive school community.

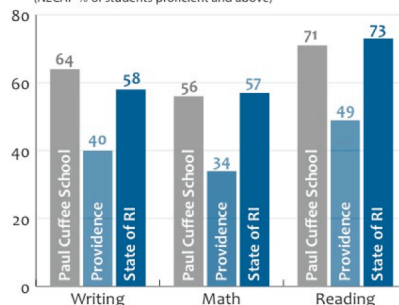
Our teachers have been trained to work with a variety of learning styles. Small class sizes allow teachers to provide differentiated instruction, focusing on each student's strengths while addressing any weaknesses. Our teachers work long hours each day so that all children who enter PCS will receive the support and encouragement they need to thrive.

PCS Student Demographics

- 774 students in grades K–12
- Student–teacher ratio is 18:1
- 61% Latino, 24% African American, 10% Caucasian, 4% Asian/Pacific Islander, and 1% Native American
- 77% qualify for free/reduced lunch

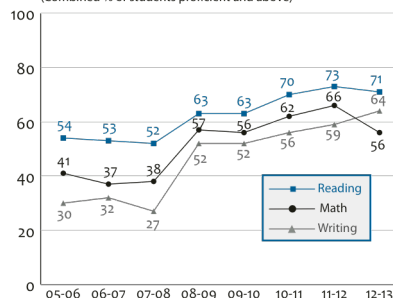
Comparison of PCS and RI Scores, 2012–2013

(NECAP % of students proficient and above)



NECAP Results for Paul Cuffee School

(Combined % of students proficient and above)



Paul Cuffee Upper School

Paul Cuffee Upper School, which houses grades 9–12, opened in September 2010 and will graduate its first class of seniors in June 2014.

The school emphasizes active learning, personal initiative, and social responsibility. Our program focuses on preparing all students to enter higher education and careers.

Our college counseling office works with students at all grade levels. As students progress through the Upper School, our counseling staff develop a personalized and increasingly active approach in guiding each student through the postsecondary decision-making processes. The office serves as a central resource, providing information and tools to help students and families navigate their college search. We strive to help students select a college or university in which they will succeed.

Faculty

Faculty recruitment goals include hiring highly qualified professionals who reflect our diverse student population and who share our commitment to creating an innovative, inclusive model for urban public education. Fifty-three percent of our dedicated faculty members hold a master's degree or PhD. The work of the classroom teachers is supplemented by highly trained specialists and teaching partners.

Teachers focus on the individual learning needs of each child to have a positive influence on his/her academic performance and to help every student contribute to our inclusive, respectful school culture.

Enrollment

Like all charter schools in Rhode Island, PCS is a public school open to students regardless of socioeconomic status, academic ability, or ethnicity. Students are admitted through an open, state-monitored lottery every spring. Eligible students must reside in Providence. There is no tuition.

For more information, visit us at www.paulcuffee.org



PAUL CUFFEE SCHOOL

A Maritime Charter School for Providence Youth

Lower School (K–5)

459 Promenade Street
Providence, RI 02908
P (401) 453-2626
F (401) 453-4964

Middle School (6–8)

30 Barton Street
Providence, RI 02909
P (401) 453-2711
F (401) 453-2715

Upper School (9–12)

544 Elmwood Avenue
Providence, RI 02907
P (401) 781-2727
F (401) 781-2828