

The logo for ACCESS Academy is a stylized atom with a central black circle and three intersecting black elliptical orbits. It is set against a green circular background, which is itself on a blue gradient background.

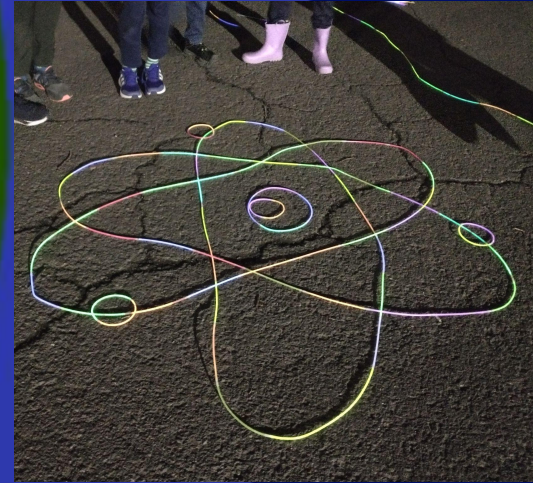
ACCESS Academy 24-25 Application Info Session

Our Mission: We are, and strive to be more so, a welcoming community of diverse and joyously accelerated learners, and we support each others' academic and social growth and success through richly personalized partnership, critical analysis, and authentic experiences.

Mindful Moment & Warm Welcome

Three deep breaths to ground in this
Atomic space.

Optional: In the chat, share grade
level(s) of your student(s) and
something you love that's made of
Atoms.



Acknowledging the Land and its Original Inhabitants



The city of Portland area rests on traditional homes of the Multnomah, Wasco, Cowlitz, Kathlamet, Clackamas, Bands of Chinook, Tualatin, Kalapuya, Molalla, and many other tribes who made their homes along the Columbia River. Portland today is a community of many diverse Native peoples who continue to live and work here. We acknowledge that this is unceded Indigenous land and honor the relationship between Indigenous peoples and the land.

Session Objectives

- Provide perspective on what ACCESS Academy is now.
- Clarify the application and lottery process and resources.
- Introduce where ACCESS is heading.





ACCESS Academy Alternative Program



ACCESS:

- 2nd-8th graders
- Approx. 325 students
- Include students from every neighborhood of Portland
- All students in PPS area with 99% score are eligible
- Currently disproportionately white and male and making some progress toward equity

Who is ACCESS for?

- Girls and non-binary and students of every gender
- BIPOC students
- Linguistically diverse students
- Diversely abled students
- LGBTQ+ students
- Students from all cultures and classes
- Students who are passionate about the arts, humanities, STEM, & sports
- Students with all varieties of social preferences
- Voices of all types
- Families of all types

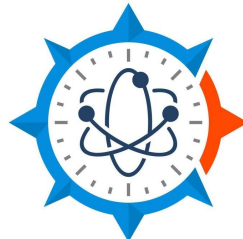
We know each of you and your students are highly gifted!

We would like to disrupt myths about ACCESS and inequities in highly gifted services.

Community - Relationships + Humanization

ACCESS is a tight knit community:

- Small class sizes
- Focus on explicit and implicit and modeled SEL (social and emotional learning)
- Story sharing and getting to know each other as whole people.
- It's not just students, but families find their people as well. (PTA, bus chat groups, and more!)



Community - Restorative Practices



Community - Enrichment Opportunities

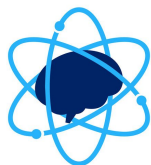
ACCESS is home to a wide variety of clubs and traditions, and we're excited for more and new ideas and activities each year.



Neurodiversity - Embracing Differences & Commonalities

ACCESS is delighted to differentiate our learning for students with 504's (accommodation plans) and IEP's (individual education plans) for Sped!

We have a learning center model and serve students with a wide variety of learning strengths.



What ACCESS is not:

- We do not have special program focus classrooms for behavior, communication, etc.
- The district's learning center model is currently a highly qualified special educator providing appropriate services, accommodations, and modifications to support a child's inclusion with their community and classroom.

If you have any questions about whether ACCESS is a match for your student's IEP, please consult with your child's case manager.

Meeting Academic Needs - Acceleration & More

ACCESS classes at every level provide students opportunities to work at an accelerated pace and often on learning objectives that are one or more years ahead of their current grade level, but that's not all!

- Focus on deep investigation, inquiry, and critical analysis
- Projects and debates
- Exploration and multiple perspectives
- Self- and peer-driven focus and enrichment
- Creativity and questioning
- Intentional grouping
- Abundant literacies!



ES - Academic Structure: General Day

Morning meeting and community time!

Reading, writing, social studies, science and walk to math time structured into every grade level's daily schedule.

Rotating schedule of essential areas: Art, PE, and Library.

Regular counseling lessons.

2 daily brain breaks and outdoor time with lunch.



ES - Academic Structure: Walk 2 Math

Every elementary student will take placement assessments within the first two weeks of school, and we will also solicit previous year teacher's and parent input. Then students will be sorted into math groups not by grade but by appropriate rate and level. Progress will be monitored throughout the year.



MS - Academic Structure: Classes

7 Periods a Day

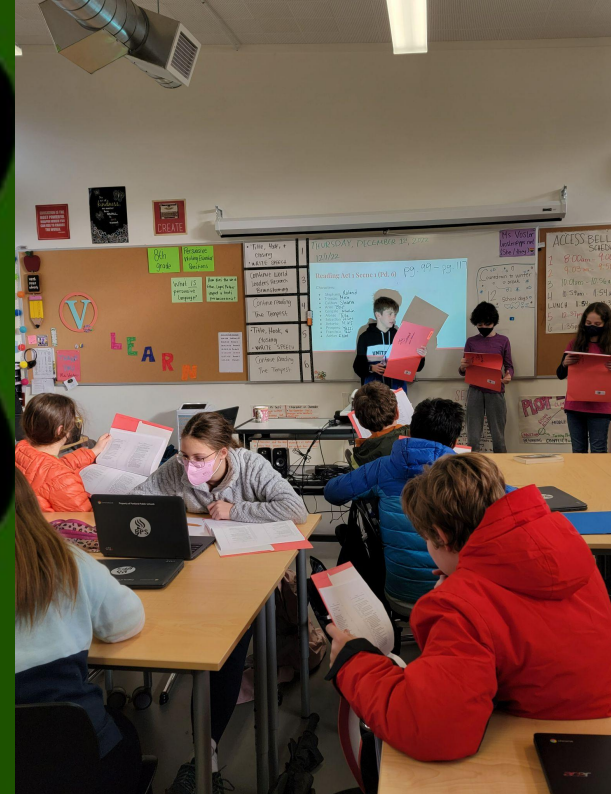
Accelerated Core Content Areas: ELA,
Social Studies, Math, and Science

PE/Health

Enrichment (6th)

Spanish (HS Credit)

Art, STEM, Humanities, or Leadership
Elective





MS - Academic Structure: Math & HS Credit & More

All Atoms leave have the opportunity to leave with multiple high school credits:

- Physics (taken in 8th grade), so are able to enter HS with more options
- High school credit Spanish
- Math - students leave with at least their Algebra credit and most will go through Geometry and some Advanced Algebra or even Precalculus!

A note on math: Generally, students follow a linear sequence by the time they're in 6th grade (most of our Atoms take CY1, CY2, Geometry). CY1, which is 7th and part of 8th grade math is our general starting point, and additional supports/weekly tutoring is available. We will have placement testing available the first week of school for new incoming students who may not have been at the correct level previously and/or students who have completed further studies over the summer.

ACCESS students take part in everything from Science Bowl and Spelling Bee to OBOB, Mathcounts, National History Day, and more!

ACCESS is home!

We are altogether at 6318 S. Corbett Ave.

Highlights:

- ADA accessibility
- Mentor relationships and cross grade level learning opportunities
- Lovely outdoor space
- Closer freeway access



ACCESS Logistics 24-25

- School Day - 8:45am - 3:30pm
- Bus stop within a mile of ACCESS student's homes
- Over 80% of ACCESS students ride the bus, so the bus ride is a community building opportunity; we are also looking to expand fun ways to connect in person with other ACCESS families
- Aftercare available through neighborhood schools
- MS sports through neighborhood high schools





Application Process

Window: Feb. 12th - Mar. 12th

1 ParentVue Application and PPS families can use their current accounts. If you don't have one, you can sign up! *NEW*

Documentation of 99% score- not needed with letter from TAG office.

Demographic Information

Please reach out w/ questions!

That's it. (Results in approx. 4-6 weeks.)



Application Cont.

Lottery Functionality:

- Historically underserved income district proportionality
- Siblings of current students
- General lottery

Application is in ParentVue:

- Go to the Online Registration/Yearly Verification/Transfer Application Screen
- Select ES Lottery 2024-25 (yes even for MS students)
- From there choose ACCESS
- [ParentVue Sheet](#)

Anticipated Spot Availability for 24-25

Notes:

- These numbers are approximate/minimums and do not account for mobility.
- Each grade level will have a waitlist, and we will enroll directly from that waitlist if/when people do have to move.

Grade Level	Anticipated Spots
2	22
3	23
4	4
5	3
6	10
7	3
8	3

Contacts and Time for Questions

If you would like to connect with a current ACCESS family and hear more, please email the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion committee so they can help put you in contact.

DEI email: access.pta.outreach@gmail.com

If you think of any other questions as you are deciding about applying, you can email them to:

Aaron Ferguson aaferguson@pps.net

TAGAC is the district parent advisory council and can be a good resource: <https://www.pps.net/Page/1548>

