



## URBAN PREP ACADEMIES

# Background Information and Preliminary FY11 Data Findings

This document contains background information and preliminary data findings related to Urban Prep Academies for the 2011 fiscal year.

### General/Overview

- Urban Prep Academies is a nonprofit organization that operates a network of public charter high schools for boys. Currently, that network includes three high schools in Chicago called Urban Prep Charter Academy for Young Men—Englewood Campus; Urban Prep Charter Academy for Young Men—East Garfield Park Campus; and Urban Prep Charter Academy for Young Men—South Shore Campus. Currently, the schools enroll 925 students and when they are all at capacity, total enrollment will be approximately 1,500 students. Urban Prep schools are non-selective/open enrollment and students are admitted via lottery with no evaluation of test scores, grades, or special needs. Across our network, Urban Prep students are African-American males; on average approximately 85% of our students are low-income (high of 93% low-income), 15% have IEPs (high of 20% with IEPs), and 85% begin at Urban Prep reading below grade level (high of 94% entering reading below grade level).
- Urban Prep Charter Academy for Young Men—Englewood Campus (ENG) opened in 2006. It is the first school in the Urban Prep network and the country's first charter public high school for boys. It is the only campus of our three schools that currently has seniors (we start each school with 9th graders only, adding a grade level each year). Urban Prep opened its Englewood Campus in a building formerly housing Englewood High School that was closed due to poor performance. Urban Prep is one of two schools that now share the building that formerly housed Englewood High School.
- While the vast majority of students come to us below grade level, we are able to accelerate them because we have an extended school day, extended school year, double periods of English and Math, Saturday school, mentoring and a positive school culture. We value growth at Urban Prep and the fact that so many students come to us below grade level, but are able to gain admission to 4-year colleges when they graduate from Urban Prep is a clear indication of how significantly our students grow academically.

### Test Data

- The standardized tests that our students take are the: EXPLORE (freshman year); PLAN (sophomore year); ACT (junior year); and PSAE (junior year). While we recognize that we have much room for improvement, our students outperform African-American males in non-selective Chicago Public Schools on all of these tests. For example, in reading on the PSAE, the percentage of students meeting/exceeding state standards are: Urban Prep: 24.6%<sup>1</sup>; CPS Black males (non-selective schools): 16.33%<sup>2</sup>; and Neighborhood School Black males: 3.4%<sup>3</sup>. For the ACT average composite score: Urban Prep: 16; CPS Black males (non-selective schools): 15; and Neighborhood School Black males: 13.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> 2010 Illinois State Report Card, Illinois State Board of Education. Web. <<http://goo.gl/AWkFA>>. <sup>2</sup> Chicago Public School's Office of Performance. <sup>3</sup> 2010 Illinois State Report Card, Illinois State Board of Education. Web. <<http://goo.gl/zT1QJ>>. <sup>4</sup> Chicago Public School's Office of Performance.

## High School Retention

- Approximately three-tenths (30%) of Urban Prep students leave us between freshman and senior year. While some people are critical of this number it is actually a huge indicator of our success. In CPS, about three-fifths (56%-61%) of Black boys will drop out of high school.<sup>5</sup> The number of students leaving Urban Prep is almost half of what the drop-out rate is for Black boys in CPS overall. It is important to note that students transfer out of Urban Prep for a variety of reasons including moving to another district or state, and when they do transfer, they enroll in other high schools—they don't just drop-out of school entirely.

## College Matriculation

- Urban Prep has had two graduating classes, and in both years 100% of Urban Prep's graduates have been admitted to 4-year colleges.
  - Our graduates have been admitted to more than two-hundred different colleges and universities including: Cornell University, Dartmouth College, Denison

University, Grinnell College, Hampton University, Howard University, Illinois State University, Morehouse College, University of Illinois, University of Michigan, University of Rochester, and the University of Virginia.

- According to our records, for the Class of 2010:
  - 100% were accepted to a 4-year college
  - 94% enrolled in a 4-year college
  - 80% completed their first year of college<sup>6</sup>
- Urban Prep's 100% college acceptance and 94% college enrollment numbers compare favorably to CPS, which has a 4-year college enrollment rate of approximately 40% for all graduates and 33% for African-American male graduates.<sup>7</sup>
- Our first graduating class is projected to increase the total number of African-American male 9th graders in CPS who earn a college degree by as much as 12 percent.<sup>8</sup> If subsequent graduating classes at our three schools have the same success with college admission and matriculation as our first class, Urban Prep could increase the number of Black boys starting as CPS freshmen who will earn a college degree by as much as 40 percent.<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> Schott Foundation on Public Education. *Yes We Can: The 50 State Report on Public Education and Black Males*. Cambridge: Schott Foundation, 2010. Roderick, Melissa, Jenny Nagaoko, and Elaine Al-lensworth. *From High School to the Future: A first look at Chicago Public School graduates' college enrollment, college preparation, and graduation from four-year colleges*. Chicago: Consortium on Chicago School Research at the University of Chicago, 2006. <sup>6</sup> Estimated; final number is still pending further data collection. <sup>7</sup> Roderick, et al. <sup>8</sup> Calculated using the following: Assume 10,000 African American male 9th graders in CPS in 2007; 2.5% (or 250 students) are expected to earn a four-year degree (Consortium on Chicago School Research); and 30% of Black males who enroll in college are expected to earn a degree (The College Board). Thus, if 100 members of Urban Prep's Class of 2010 enrolled in college, data project that 30 are expected to earn a degree; thereby increasing the aforementioned 250 number by as much as 12%. <sup>9</sup> See previous note.

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## URBAN PREP ACADEMIES

Urban Prep Charter Academy For Young Men  
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WE BELIEVE.