

**2026-27 HIGH SCHOOL ADMISSIONS DECISIONS
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)
Updated February 2026**

About Ingenuity High School: Ingenuity at Poly is an advanced, socially responsible STEM curriculum and leadership program. Accepted students participate in a 4-year cohort of math and science courses with STEM research opportunities. Ingenuity is a good fit for students with a history of strong academic performance, curiosity in math and science, and the ability to grasp new material quickly. Ingenuity’s math sequence begins with Honors Geometry or higher in 9th grade and students take at least 2 Advanced Placement (AP) college-level STEM courses before graduating.

Who is eligible to apply?	8th grade students who live in Baltimore City and complete Algebra I before high school. Limited spots are available for entry in 10th grade through a separate application. Applications are not accepted for students entering grades 11 or 12.
How did students qualify for Ingenuity?	<p>Ingenuity calculates an admissions score for each applicant which is different from the district composite score. For school year 2026-27, Ingenuity’s Admissions Score consists of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 7th grade final grades and 8th grade first quarter (or trimester) grades in Math, Science, Social Studies, and English Language Arts ● Applicant’s transcript must list Algebra 1 as an assigned or completed middle school course. ● 2025 Math MCAP Assessment Results (actual or converted from iReady) ● 2025 ELA MCAP Assessment Results (actual or converted from iReady) ● Ingenuity’s NWEA MAP Algebra 1 Assessment Results <p>Applicants are accepted considering 2 factors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ingenuity’s admissions score ● Applicant school and ZIP code quartile
My student’s admissions decision provided the NWEA MAP Scale Score. What does this mean?	Ingenuity applicants took the NWEA MAP Algebra 1 CCSS 2010 Exam as part of admissions. The exam results are reported using RIT (Rasch Unit) Scale Scores. RIT is a form of a scale score that measures academic difficulty. The RIT Scales were used in developing the Admissions Scores.

<p>How competitive was the process? How were placements determined?</p>	<p>315 students applied for 85 seats in our high school program. This is an acceptance rate of 27% (Number seats/number applications).</p> <p>Given the high demand for the program and to create opportunities across the city, placements were determined using the admissions score ranks within school groups and zip code quartiles. Each school group and ZIP code quartile was given a number of seats based on its size and application rate. There are six school groups: one for each of the four Ingenuity middle school programs, one for all other Baltimore City Public School applicants, and one for schools not in the Baltimore City Public School system. ZIP code quartiles were developed using the Census data of median household income by ZIP Codes.</p> <p>The program is committed to identifying a cohort of students that reflects the diversity of Baltimore City. Ingenuity’s admissions process adheres to Baltimore City Public Schools’ Equity Policy. To achieve educational equity, Ingenuity is required to develop and employ application processes, scoring, and admissions criteria that do not adversely or disproportionately disadvantage students of color.</p>
<p>What is the diversity of the students in the program?</p>	<p>For this admissions cycle:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The 8th grade applicant pool consisted of: 48% female, 52% male, 64% from racial/ethnic groups underrepresented in STEM (Black/African American, Hispanic/Latino, Multiethnic, and American Indian/Alaska Native), and 29% do not have parent(s) with a four-year college degree. ● The 8th grade first round offers consist of: 52% female, 48% male, 48% from racial/ethnic groups underrepresented in STEM (Black/African American, Hispanic/Latino, Multiethnic, and American Indian/Alaska Native), and 16% do not have parent(s) with a four-year college degree.
<p>Does my student have to be accepted at Poly to be in the Ingenuity high school program?</p>	<p>Yes. All students accepted to Ingenuity at Poly must also have been accepted to Poly through the Baltimore City Public Schools High School Choice process.</p>
<p>How should my student prepare over the summer for Ingenuity?</p>	<p>Students are admitted into Ingenuity because they demonstrate qualities to succeed in a rigorous STEM program. Ingenuity’s math sequence assumes students attain a deep mastery of high school Algebra in middle school.</p> <p>On Accepted Students Day, students complete math and world language placement exams and make course scheduling decisions. On this day, accepted students will take the written Math Mastery Test administered by Ingenuity, not the test administered to other Poly 9th graders. The Math Mastery Test helps Ingenuity staff assess students’ understanding of key middle school math skills in order to determine their readiness for high school Ingenuity math courses. Performance on this assessment does not affect a student’s enrollment in Ingenuity; rather, it helps staff identify the resources and support needed to ensure each student’s success.</p>

<p>Is there a waitlist if my child is not accepted?</p>	<p>Yes, when Ingenuity sends out offers, the program places a set of students on a waitlist. The waitlist closes on August 1.</p>
<p>Are Baltimore City students prioritized over students from County or private schools?</p>	<p>All students are ranked using the same admissions score. Placement is determined using the admissions score ranks within school groups and zip code quartiles. All schools outside Baltimore City Public Schools are considered one school group.</p> <p>The district verifies Baltimore City residency upon enrollment.</p>
<p>If my child is not accepted, can I appeal the decision?</p>	<p>Yes. Upon the request for an appeal, the program will manually review all tests and transcripts. If the review results in a discrepancy, the child's composite score will be recalculated. If the new composite score qualifies them for placement, the child will be placed on the waitlist or offered a seat if /when one is available.</p>
<p>Can my child join Ingenuity during the school year?</p>	<p>No new students are added after the first day of school from outside Poly for the 9th grade. If seats are available after the first day of school, students who are already enrolled at Poly can be considered. All other students can apply for consideration for the 10th grade.</p>