

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

**About Ingenuity Middle School:** The Ingenuity Project is a citywide specialized academic program in Baltimore City schools. Students take advanced math and science courses during the school day in place of the standard curriculum and have opportunities for ongoing enrichment and support.

Accepted students transfer into one of Ingenuity’s host middle schools in Baltimore City Public Schools: Hamilton, James McHenry, Mount Royal, and Roland Park. Students enroll for the duration of three years (grades 6-8) and become members of these new middle schools. They participate in standard or honors coursework (English Language Arts, Social Studies, and special area classes) offered within the school.

<b>Who is eligible to apply?</b>	5th grade students who live in Baltimore City. Limited spots are available for entry in 7th grade through a separate application.
<b>How did students qualify for Ingenuity?</b>	<p><b>Ingenuity calculates an admissions score for each applicant that is different from the district composite score.</b> For school year 2026-27, Ingenuity’s Admissions Score consists of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 4th grade final grades and 5th grade first quarter (or trimester) grades in Math, Science, Social Studies, and English Language Arts</li> <li>● 2025 Math MCAP Assessment Results (actual or converted from iReady)</li> <li>● 2025 ELA MCAP Assessment Results (actual or converted from iReady)</li> </ul> <p>Applicants are accepted considering 3 factors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Ingenuity’s admissions score</li> <li>● Applicant middle school preference</li> <li>● Applicant ZIP code quartile</li> </ul>
<b>How competitive was the process?</b>	<b>701</b> students applied for <b>214 available</b> seats across four schools in the middle school program.
<b>How were placements determined?</b>	Roland Park is the most competitive location with <b>54%</b> of all 5 <sup>th</sup> grade applicants ranking Roland Park as their first choice for 2026-27 admissions. This means we had <b>380</b> students interested in <b>64</b> available seats.
<b>How is my student’s school placement determined?</b>	<p><b>School placement is assigned according to Ingenuity’s admissions score rank with ZIP code quartiles.</b> Applicants received their first possible choice of school until school placements are filled according to rank. Applicants were considered for placement at the schools they selected on their application. If only one school choice was indicated and that school’s seats were filled, no offer was given.</p> <p>Given the high demand for the program and to create access from across the city, placement was determined according to admissions score rank within <a href="#">ZIP code quartiles</a>. 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 <a href="#">Baltimore City Public Schools’ Equity Policy</a>. 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><b>What is the diversity of the students in the program?</b></p>	<p>For this admissions cycle:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>The 5th grade applicant pool consisted of:</b> 48% female, 52% male, 77% from racial/ethnic groups underrepresented in STEM (Black/African American, Hispanic/Latino, Multiethnic, and American Indian/Alaska Native), and 47% do not have parent(s) with a four-year college degree.</li> <li>● <b>The 5th grade first round offers consist of:</b> 47% female, 53% male, 68% from racial/ethnic groups underrepresented in STEM (Black/African American, Hispanic/Latino, Multiethnic, and American Indian/Alaska Native), and 37% do not have parent(s) with a four-year college degree.</li> </ul>
<p><b>How should my student prepare over the summer for Ingenuity?</b></p>	<p><b>Summer 6th Grade Summer Academy:</b> All accepted 6th grade Ingenuity students are expected to attend this 8-day STEM academy where students are oriented to Ingenuity’s math and science curriculum, meet their middle school classmates, and participate in activities to explore Ingenuity’s core values for STEM leadership. Dates are provided in the offer letter.</p>
<p><b>Is there a waitlist if my child is not accepted? And can I request a spot on the waitlist for their first choice?</b></p>	<p>When Ingenuity sends out offers, the program places a set of qualified students on a waitlist. The waitlist expires August 1.</p>
<p><b>Are Baltimore City students prioritized over students from outside the district?</b></p>	<p>All students are ranked using the same admissions score. Placement is determined using the admissions score ranks within zip code quartiles.</p> <p>The district verifies Baltimore City residency upon enrollment.</p>
<p><b>If my child is not accepted, can I appeal the decision?</b></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 admissions score will be recalculated. If the new admissions score qualifies them for placement, the child will be placed on the waitlist or offered a seat if /when one is available.</p>
<p><b>Can my child join Ingenuity during the school year?</b></p>	<p>No new students are added after the first day of school from outside Ingenuity middle schools for 6th grade. If seats are available after the first day of school, students currently enrolled in one of the Ingenuity middle schools can be considered for that location. All other students can apply for consideration in grade 7.</p>