

Welcome to

Science Leadership Academy


**THE
FRANKLIN
INSTITUTE**

Science Leadership Academy (SLA) is a magnet high school formed and managed as a partnership between The Franklin Institute and the School District of Philadelphia. With a rigorous, inquiry-driven college preparatory curriculum, SLA offers a focus on science, technology, mathematics, and entrepreneurship. Students at SLA learn in a project-based environment where the core values of inquiry, research, collaboration, presentation, and reflection are emphasized in all classes. The overarching goal of SLA is to create 21st century citizens.

FACT SHEET

- Founded in 2006 by The Franklin Institute and the School District of Philadelphia (SDP)
- Founding and current Principal: Chris Lehmann
- Location: 2130 Arch St., Philadelphia, PA
- Average enrollment per year: 125 students
- Overall attendance rate: 94% (SDP < 83%)
- Parent/Teacher conference attendance: 95%
- One of the most diverse schools in the District: 49% African American, 36% White, 7% Latino, 7% Asian and 1% other; closely reflects the City of Philadelphia's population breakdown
- Application history:
 - Year one = 900 applications for 125 student spaces
 - Year two = 1800 applications for 125 student spaces
 - Year three = 2000 applications for 125 student spaces
 - Year four = 2000 applications for 125 student spaces
- The first graduating class:
 - 117 seniors will graduate on June 15, 2010
 - Expected graduation rate = 98% of senior class
 - Of the students who entered as a part of SLA's first freshman class in 2006, 90% will graduate from the school (SDP < 50%)
 - Students have received more than \$4,000,000 in merit-based scholarships, including a Gates Foundation Millennium Scholarship
 - Students have been accepted to a variety of outstanding schools including Princeton, University of Pennsylvania, Syracuse, Bard, Georgetown, Penn State, University of Pittsburgh, Drexel, University of Colorado, University of Delaware, American University, Juniata College, and Temple University
 - Approximately 40% of students have declared a major in a science, technology, engineering or mathematics field
- Achieved Adequate Yearly Progress in both national measured categories (reading and math)
- Exceeded the state average in every Pennsylvania System of School Assessment category (reading, writing, math, and science) and significantly outpaced the School District of Philadelphia in each area by a minimum of 2 to 10 fold in the different categories
- Designated as an Apple Distinguished School 2009 and 2010 for excellence with the 1:1 laptop program (only 30 K-12 schools nationwide have received this honor)
- Eleven 10th graders attended the Pennsylvania Junior Academy of Science state competition on May 17 at Penn State's main campus which was SLA's first year participating in the event:
 - *Two students won 1st prize*
 - *Six students won 2nd prize*
 - *Three students won 3rd prize*
 - *Project topics included wind turbines and the genetics of E. coli*

The Franklin Institute (TFI) Participation:

- **Free TFI memberships** are provided for all students and their families.
- **Wednesdays@TheFranklin:** All freshman students spend three hours at TFI every Wednesday immersed in informal inquiry-based science curriculum. They take mini-courses learning all aspects of a science center (from exhibit design to development practices and operations).
- **Individualized Learning Plans (ILPs):** All sophomores are required to complete internships in a variety of areas of interest. Currently 105 partners throughout Philadelphia host SLA sophomores for this program. TFI hosts between 15 - 20 students each year.
- **Special Programming (Robotics, Careers in Science, Meet the Scientists, Franklin Institute Awards speakers at SLA and others):** SLA students participate in several aspects of TFI programming, including hosting events, filming, webstreaming and creating podcasts for exhibits.
- **Board of Trustee Scholarships:** TFI Board of Trustees has awarded five \$10,000 scholarships to high achieving students matriculating into STEM disciplines.
- **Co-Host of EduCon:** This annual education technology conference has received national recognition and hosts educators from 34 states and 3 continents.
- **Ambassadors Program:** TFI has created a committee of professionals ranging from educators to business persons to provide insight and guidance, and to leverage support for SLA throughout the Greater Philadelphia area.