

TEAM Academy Charter School, Essex County



The New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) Lighthouse District Initiative recognizes districts that have demonstrated measurable progress across diverse groups of learners. The NJDOE is proud to welcome TEAM Academy Charter School to the second cohort of Lighthouse Districts.

KIPP NJ has a bold vision: One day, our nation will know Newark and Camden, NJ as cities of world class public education. TEAM Academy, located in Newark, is one of eleven KIPP schools across the state. TEAM's objective, staying true to the state's intention for charter schools to serve representative samples of the Newark school aged population, is to make the school known, accessible, and effective for all students in Newark.

TEAM Academy strives to be a place where all children feel safe, seen, known and loved. KIPP's motto is "Work Hard. Be Nice" which KIPPsters say summarizes their belief that great schools focus on more than just academics. At TEAM each school has social work and psychologist support to provide small group and 1:1 counseling to students. TEAM also has an in-house Child Study Team along with a large team of learning specialists to provide a range of supports for students with special needs or students who need intervention. Supports range in scope depending on student need. The school offers push-in support, replacement curriculum, and even technology or therapeutic interventions.

TEAM Academy places a special emphasis on meeting all their students' needs and providing services to students and families throughout the year. TEAM has what they refer to as a "Promise Team" to analyze student data and respond to student need when Tier 1 supports are not working. The team uses individualized behavior plans and other personalized resources to ensure each child's success. The school also utilizes the Pathways Program, which is a therapeutic program housed in three of KIPP NJ schools in Newark. The program provides complete wraparound services to ensure students with the highest levels of need, who cannot currently thrive in the general classroom environment, are provided with the resource support to get the intensive services they need.

Community and family are at the heart of the TEAM Academy mission. The school has an active Parent Partnership Team and school-based advocates who support family engagement. The school also hosts a variety of formal and informal community events to create a welcoming community for all students and their families. Knowing the power of strong relationships, TEAM conducts home visits for all Kindergarten and 5th grade families to establish a strong partnership from day one. TEAM Academy believes in celebrating students throughout the year and has developed rituals and traditions to honor and celebrate students during the school day as well—from advisories where students are able to build strong relationships with each other to assemblies recognizing student growth and talent.

TEAM Academy knows that investing in teachers leads to better student outcomes. The school places a special emphasis on professional development for their teachers throughout the year. Teachers begin the year with two and a half weeks of professional development before the first day of school. (First year teachers receive an additional week of training!) During the school year teachers work together in weekly content meetings to analyze data, review upcoming units, practice lessons, and more. Teachers also receive half day professional development every Wednesday afternoon when students have early release from school.

TEAM Academy is seeing the results of their hard work and carefully designed practices. As of this year according to data provided by the school, they send more African American students to four-year colleges than any other high school in Newark, and elementary students are beating the state average in proficiency on the math state assessment.

TEAM Academy Charter School Demographic Information

Grades Served: K through 12

Number of Schools:

Total Enrollment: 4,015

Economically Disadvantaged:
90.2%

Students with Disabilities: 12.9%

English Learners: 1.0%

Ask TEAM to Share Their Story

- 1) Recruiting and retaining diverse educators
- 2) College-going culture
- 3) Community engagement
- 4) Using multiple measures of data to drive instruction
- 5) Practical professional learning

Contact Information

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