

# INGENUITY PREP

## CLOSING THE ACHIEVEMENT GAP AND CULTIVATING 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY CIVIC LEADERSHIP

“We believe that amongst the sea of schools serving almost exclusively low-income students of color, we **MUST** have scalable examples that – with efficiency and effectiveness in their models – promote mastery of rigorous core content and robust 21st century leadership competencies.”

AARON CUNY, HEAD OF SCHOOL, INGENUITY PREP

### KEY FEATURES:

- ✓ New School
- ✓ Station Rotation and Flex Blended Models
- ✓ Civic Orientation
- ✓ Next Generation Staffing Model
- ✓ Community Partnerships

### AT A GLANCE:

**Start Date:** Fall 2013  
**Grades Served:** PS-8  
**Location:** Washington, D.C.  
**Operator:** Ingenuity Prep  
**Operator Type:** Charter  
**Setting:** Urban  
**Students at Start:** 108  
**Students at Capacity:** 684

### MODEL TOOLBOX:

**Student Information System:** PowerSchool  
**Assessment Tools and Approaches:** AppleTree Institute's ECR, STEP Literacy Assessment, NWEA MAP, DECA/DESSA Social-Emotional Literacy Assessment  
**Digital Content Providers:** Lexia Core 5, ST Math, Raz-Kids  
**Hardware:** iPads, Chromebooks

**The Vision:** With a significant commitment to rigorous, accountable, feedback-rich learning, Ingenuity Prep is preparing students to succeed in college and beyond as impactful civic leaders. Ingenuity Prep launched its flagship site to initially serve PreK3 through kindergarten in 2013-14. The school will grow a grade level each year and aspires to eventually expand PK3 through high school.

Ingenuity Prep founders identified two problems with existing school models: 1) few consistently close the achievement gap in high-poverty schools, and 2) few develop robust models for cultivating 21<sup>st</sup> century leadership competencies. They believe it's imperative that someone provide an example of doing both well and Ingenuity Prep aims to do just that.

In its progressive use of people and technology, it will promote high levels of efficiency, personalization, and accountability in student learning within a sustainable, scalable model. Ingenuity Prep will serve as a forerunner in thoughtfully combining a commitment to rigorous core content and 21<sup>st</sup> century leadership skills.

**The Academic Model:** After taking a close look at pioneers and innovators who are successful in solving today's educational challenges, and then mapping those models against the particular needs of Ingenuity Prep's students, the founders

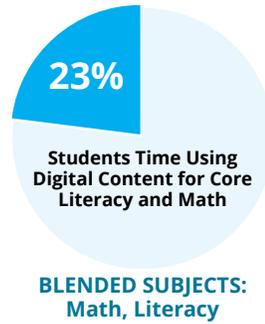
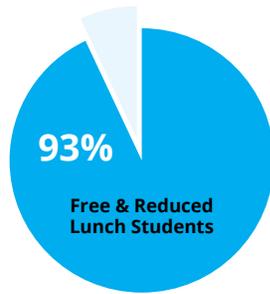
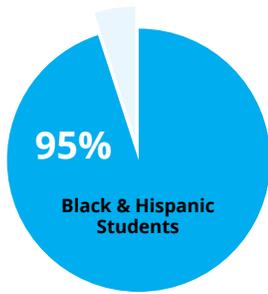
grounded the Ingenuity Prep model upon four pillars:

- I: More time on task
- II: Looping teams of content-specialized teachers
- III: A blended model driven by mission-aligned outcomes
- IV: Time explicitly devoted to 21<sup>st</sup> century civic leadership competencies

**More time:** Often, addressing the achievement gap simply requires more quality learning time. And so, Ingenuity Prep students, through an extended day and extended year calendar, engage in 33 percent more learning time than their peers in neighboring district schools.

**Teacher teams:** Ingenuity Prep's career pipeline for teachers features resident, associate, lead, and master teacher positions—each with varying degrees of instructional responsibility and release time. Master teachers have the deepest content knowledge, carry the heaviest burden of planning for and executing the highest-leverage instruction, and, correspondingly, receive one full day of release time per week. Grade-level teams loop with cohorts of students across grade-level bands (PS-PK, K-2, 3-5, 6-8). Teachers cultivate deep content-knowledge across a range of developmental levels, leaving them well-suited for looping. Looping provides for sustained relationships with students and families and minimizes

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**BY THE NUMBERS:**

- Year 1 public revenue per pupil: \$21,233
- Year 1 expenses per pupil: \$21,482
- Year 4 revenue per pupil: \$19,299
- Year 4 expenses per pupil: \$17,618
- Years to sustainability: 2

inefficiencies of learning the academic, social, and emotional needs of new students each year.

**Blended model:** A primary goal of Ingenuity Prep’s academic model is to provide students with the high level of substantive, accountable, student-to-peer and student-to-teacher discourse called for by the Common Core. Approximately 70 percent of literacy and math learning time is personalized through the use of digital content and teacher-supported, discourse-rich, small-group instruction with three to eight students. With multiple teachers in each classroom, only about six percent of literacy and math learning time will occur in groups of more than 15 students. Instruction is targeted to maximize the time students spend working within their own “zone of proximal development”—that sweet-spot of learning

that best enables growth.

**Civic leadership:** Not only are leadership competencies integrated into core learning experiences, but Ingenuity Prep commits significant time for explicit cultivation of social-emotional literacy, creative problem-solving skills, and progressive, civic-minded service orientations. Beginning in kindergarten, students engage in over three hours per week in a civic leadership class.

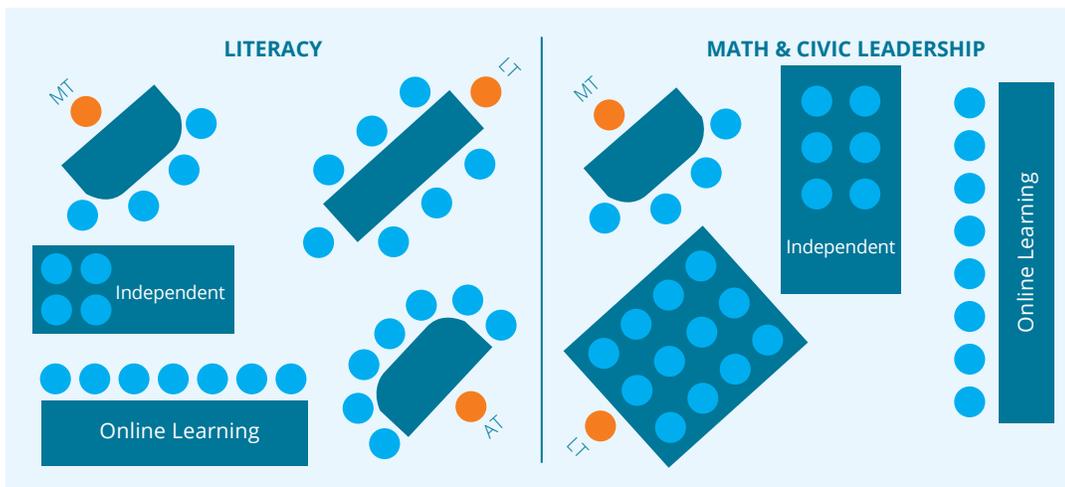
**The Organizational Model:** Ingenuity Prep supports the academic model through several unique operational strategies. Increased class size funds an additional highly-qualified teacher in each classroom and allows for more small-group work for students. By leveraging partnerships with local teacher residencies and a tiered teacher pipeline, Ingenuity Prep anticipates a high return on its profession-

al development investment in human capital. And Ingenuity Prep has an institutionalized, highly-predictable, and stable salary structure in which the highest levels of effectiveness are consistently rewarded with the highest levels of compensation.

In Washington, DC, per pupil funding rates are high but so are human capital and facilities costs; Ingenuity Prep anticipates that the same model would be less expensive—and therefore also sustainable—in other regions.

**The Operator:** Ingenuity Prep is a new charter school founded by Washington, DC educators who are driven by the desire for scalable examples of schools serving almost exclusively low-income students of color that promote mastery of rigorous core content and genuine commitment to civic leadership.

## BIRD’S EYE VIEW



**LEGEND**

- MT=Master Teacher
- LT=Lead Teacher
- AT=Associate Teacher
- RT=Resident Teacher\*

\*position is part time and not included in the graphic on the left

In the Ingenuity Prep model (kindergarten and above), grade-level cohorts of 60 students split into two groups of 30 and rotate between two extended-size classrooms. Within each classroom, teams of content-specialized teachers facilitate instruction across a range of learning contexts.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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LEARNING CHALLENGES**

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