



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

SY23-24 McKinley Technology High School: Admissions Process Rubric

For Grades 9-11*

About the McKinley Technology Admissions Criteria: McKinley Technology High School is a 2022 National Blue Ribbon Award winner. A STEM focused school with three Distinguished National Academy Foundation (NAF) Academies for students to select from: Information Technology, Engineering, and Biotechnology. We are looking for scholars who have a passion for learning, take pride in their community, who can embrace challenges and are committed to personal growth. We find the most successful applicants are those who take an active role in the learning process, are willing to try new things, are focused on achieving academic success, and have an interest in STEM-related fields. We are looking for well-rounded individuals who will commit to their education and to their school community.

About the McKinley Technology Admissions Process: McKinley Technology High School will first review all applicants' report cards and recommendation letters. While there is no minimum requirement, successful applicants typically hold a 3.0 GPA or above, and have demonstrated success in Math, Science, and English courses in middle school. However, we do have students with lower GPAs who have been able to find success with the right support and strategies.

The report card and recommendation letters are all threshold criteria that are first considered in the admission process. The highest scoring applicants based on these criteria will be invited to participate in the next step of the admissions process, the interview and on-site writing sample. From there, the students with the top cumulative scores from the application review, group interview, and writing session may be marked eligible for admission. All other students, based on their cumulative scores, may be asked to participate in a second, individual interview before an eligibility determination is made. Students who are invited to an interview are required to participate for further consideration.

Each component of the admissions process is scored and weighted according to the chart below. There is a total of 400 possible points for the admissions process. Applicants will then be ranked in order of their point total to determine their eligibility for acceptance. Students are ranked in order based on their cumulative application points, with the students who were eligible based on the application review, group interview, and writing sample only first, followed by students invited to the individual interview, ranked in total cumulative point order.

*McKinley Technology HS will review applicants entering the 11th grade if the applicant has sufficient credits in a similar program of study to enter on track to meet our school's graduation requirements.



Admissions Component	Weight	Notes
Application Review (Report card, recommendations, and Survey)	30% (100 points)	<p>While McKinley Technology HS reviews grades (GPA), there is no minimum GPA required.</p> <p>Within the application review, grades weigh 70% and recommendations weigh 30%.</p> <p>The overall GPA of each applicant is considered, however grades from core classes are most heavily reviewed for acceptance.</p>
Student applications will be ranked based on the above criteria. The top students will be invited for the group interview and writing sample portion of the admissions process.		
Group Interview	30% (100 points)	<p>McKinley Technology HS believes strongly in identifying students with a passion for STEM, a strong sense of curiosity, commitment to community and who demonstrate perseverance. This will be a group interview with no more than 3 students total per group.</p> <p>Based on health guidance and family circumstances, interviews may be conducted virtually for SY23-24 on an as needed basis and based on the circumstance. DCPS remains committed to monitoring and following EOM mandates and updates.</p>
On-Site Writing Sample	20% (100 points)	<p>McKinley uses the writing sample to assess student interest in our program, commitment to community, and experiences demonstrating personal perseverance. Based on health guidance and family circumstances, essays may be conducted in-person for SY23-24. DCPS remains committed to monitoring and following health guidance.</p> <p>While this written sample is not evaluated specifically for vocabulary, grammar, etc., we are looking for students to respond to questions with thorough responses to gauge the student's general ability to communicate through written text.</p>
Student applications will be ranked based on the above criteria. The top students will either be made eligible solely based off the cumulative application, group interview, and writing sample score so far or will be invited for an individual interview.		

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Individual Interview	20% (100 Points)	<p>Like the group interview, the individual interview is an opportunity to gauge the student's interest in our school, discuss their own experiences, and allow individualized interaction for students with McKinley Technology HS staff and/or students to provide more thorough responses to questions, as well as to ask questions and become familiar with the McKinley Technology HS program and culture.</p> <p>Based on health guidance and family circumstances, interviews may be conducted virtually for SY23-24, on an as needed basis and based on the circumstance. DCPS remains committed to monitoring and following health guidance.</p>
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