



THE URBAN ASSEMBLY SCHOOL FOR LAW JUSTICE

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Kristin Ferrales, Principal

Featured in “New York City’s Best Public High Schools”

Our Mission

The Urban Assembly School for Law and Justice (SLJ) believes that the success of each student is a community responsibility. Staff, families, and partners work together to challenge and support students with a curriculum that respects their right to learn at high levels and with enrichment services that every student deserves. SLJ delivers personal attention in an empowering environment that fosters intellectual independence and civic engagement. Equipped with an understanding of law and social justice, SLJ students graduate ready to succeed after high school and effect change in society.

Three Pillars

SLJ provides an education that rests on three foundational pillars: intensive academic instruction, robust enrichment offerings woven into the curriculum, and individualized college and career preparation.

Instruction. Based on the idea that law is a captivating lens for learning, and that the skills necessary for a legal professional are universal, we offer a rigorous academic program to engage students through issues of law and social justice. Unique course offerings include Forensics, Constitutional Law, Participation in Government, and Research Writing; electives in Visual Arts and Theater; and AP courses. Teachers plan collaboratively so that what students learn in one class is strongly reinforced by instruction in other classes. Work is project-based and heavily infused with reading and writing. Our four-year course of study is designed to prepare students for success in college leading to the attainment of a Bachelor’s and beyond. The curriculum demands seven academic credits beyond what the New York City Department of Education requires for graduation.

College & Career. All SLJ students experience a series of regular college readiness lessons and activities in Advisory as well as opportunities to meet one-on-one and in small groups with our team of College & Career advisors. These advisors get to know students personally and help them identify and enact the most rigorous post-high school plan possible. A college retention rate of 87% for our alumni eighteen months after graduation from our school attests to the excellence of SLJ’s curriculum and the effectiveness of our faculty.

Enrichment. In all grades, students choose from an extensive array of extracurricular opportunities – both on- and off-site, during the school year and over the summer – including arts, athletics, leadership opportunities, pre-college programs, study abroad, internships, and service opportunities. Participation contributes to students’ independence, maturity, interpersonal skills, professional and organizational skills, and commitment to higher education.

Our 18-month college retention rate is 87%

THE STUDENTS WE SERVE

SLJ serves approximately 460 culturally diverse students from all five New York City boroughs, with a large majority drawn from Brooklyn. Most of our students come from the neighborhoods of Flatbush, East New York, and Brownsville in Brooklyn, three of the poorest neighborhoods in the city. Our student population is primarily Black American, Caribbean, and Latino. A large percentage of students live in single parent, female-headed homes, and many are the children of immigrants or are immigrants themselves.

PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL

SLJ serves all students regardless of middle school achievement. Upon entering, many students perform below grade level in both math and reading. SLJ does not track students, meaning classes are heterogeneously mixed regardless of students' ability level. Many students come to SLJ already underserved in the areas of math and science from their middle school and feeling stronger in the humanities.

TITLE I STATUS

SLJ qualifies for Title I Funding, which means that most of our students are economically disadvantaged and qualify for free or reduced lunch. More than 75 percent will be the first in their family to attend college and many will be the first in their family to complete high school.

REGENTS EXAMS

College-readiness standards in our high school are aligned with the City University of New York's threshold scores of 75 on the comprehensive English Language Arts and 70 on Common Core Algebra. Students are supported in re-taking state tests when more time is needed to meet threshold scores. SLJ offers intense supports to prepare students for the Regents exams that are required to receive their Regents Diploma: US History, Global History, English, Algebra, and Living Environment. SLJ's English and History scores are well above the average scores across NYC. When compared to other NYC public schools serving students in high poverty, our math and science scores are comparable. Some students take Regents beyond what they need to graduate in subjects, such as Geometry, Earth Science, and Trigonometry; however, our course curriculums are not geared towards preparing students for these Regents exams.

CLASS of 2022 Update: In March 2020, the Urban Assembly School for Law and Justice shifted to fully remote, asynchronous instruction. Many of our students did not have regular access to technology or Wi-Fi. For the 2020-2021 school year, students took synchronous remote instruction, with 1-2 days optional in the school building, but 82% remained fully remote.

The New York State Education Department cancelled the June 2020 and June 2021 Regents examinations due to COVID. Students who were enrolled and earned credit in a course that culminates in a Regents exam were exempted from this exam. An exam score of WA on a student's transcript indicates that the Regents Exam was waived.

Student Population			
Total Enrollment	460	Latino	18%
Class of 2021 Graduation Rate	98%	Black	57%
Average Daily Attendance (2019-20)	90%	White	11%
Free or Reduced Lunch	73%	Other	10%
First Generation College	75%	Males	41%
English Language Learners	1%	Females	59%
Special Education	17%		

School Description	
Community	Urban
Accreditation	New York State Board of Regents
Admissions Criteria	Educational Option
School Year	Annualized
Faculty	35
Administration	3
Student Services	20

Graduation Requirements		
Subject	Credits Required by NYC	Credits Required by SLJ
English	8	10
Social Studies	8	12
Math	6	8
Science	6	8
Foreign Language	2	2
Art / Music	2	2
Health	1	1
Phys Ed	4	4
Elective	7	4
Total	44	51

The Class of 2022 enrollment is 95 students

Academic Highlights

- Demanding Social Studies – Students complete four Social Studies credits beyond the eight required for NYC graduation, including a year-long Constitutional Law course. Students are challenged throughout high school with demanding non-fiction texts, which include Supreme Court cases and the U.S. Constitution. Writing assignments regularly call upon students to craft arguments based on primary and secondary documents. Performance-based assessments are the norm.
- Research Writing Required--Students engage in sustained research projects and access the databases of the Brooklyn Public Library throughout the course. A college level annotated bibliography is required.
- Emphasis on Literacy—9th graders take two English courses, which are targeted literacy building courses that emphasize argument, discussion, writing structures, evidence, and analysis.
- Foreign Language – a single year of Spanish was the only offering to the Class of 2022.
- Calculus – this is the most advanced math course available to the Class of 2022’s highest math achievers.
- Physics and Environmental Science -- these are the only science course offered to seniors.
- For the 2020-21 school year, 82% of students opted to be fully remote.

Advanced Placement and College Courses

SLJ offers three Advanced Placement courses to seniors: English Language & Composition, Microeconomics, and Environmental Science. We also offer AP courses to a small group of underclassmen: Psychology and U.S. History. Enrollment in AP courses was dependent on whether a student had taken previous Regents exams in middle school. *SLJ did not require students to take AP Exams in 2020. Scores below are from Spring 2020.*

Advanced Placement (May 2020 Results)							
	# Registered	% Testing	Score: 5	Score: 4	Score: 3	Score: 2	Score: 1
Microeconomics	26	85%	0	1	3	8	10
US History	28	100%	0	9	7	5	7
English Language & Composition	27	96%	0	7	11	5	3
Psychology	29	79%	2	3	7	6	5
Environmental Science	28	89%	0	3	3	6	12

Grading, Ranking, and Testing

SLJ gives grades from 55-100 with 65 as the passing grade. Grade Point Average is unweighted, and excludes physical education, advisory, and arts electives. SLJ does not compute class rank; however, a composite grade distribution is provided.

As outlined above, the Class of 2022 has not taken Regents Exams. An exam score of WA on a student’s transcript indicates that the Regents Exam was waived.

Regents Exams (Class of 2021)				
2020-21 School Year	English	Social Studies	Math	Science
Number Taking	101	97	100	98
Number Passing	89	83	90	88
Number at 75 or Higher	76	63	41	49

SAT Averages (Class of 2021)		
Evidence-Based Reading and Writing	Mathematics	Total
453	455	905

Grade Distribution (Class of 2022)						
2020-2021 School Year						
		English	Social Studies	Math	Science	Foreign Language
90-100	A	25	24	26	7	28
80-89	B	17	22	14	7	19
70-79	C	25	13	23	11	24
65-69	D	21	30	23	14	18

Reporting Policy

Suspensions for aggressive behavior towards others at any point during senior year will become a part of reports that are shared with colleges.

Class of 2021 high school graduation rate was 98%

COLLEGES ATTENDED BY OUR ALUMNI

*Institutions from which our alumni have graduated

American University	Daemen College*	SUNY Alfred State College
Amherst College*	Delaware State University*	SUNY Binghamton University*
Barnard College*	DePauw University*	SUNY Buffalo State College*
Bates College*	Dickinson College	SUNY College at Cortland*
Bennett College*	Fairleigh Dickinson University	SUNY College at New Paltz*
Bentley University*	Franklin and Marshall College*	SUNY College at Old Westbury*
Boricua College*	Fordham University*	SUNY College at Oneonta*
Cazenovia College*	George Washington University*	SUNY College at Plattsburgh*
Clark Atlanta University*	Georgetown University*	SUNY College at Potsdam
Colby College*	Hamilton College*	SUNY Morrisville State College*
Columbia University	Hobart and William Smith Colleges*	SUNY Fashion Institute of Technology*
Connecticut College*	Hofstra University*	SUNY Oswego State College*
CUNY Baruch College	Howard University*	SUNY Purchase College*
CUNY Borough of Manhattan Comm Coll*	Ithaca College	SUNY Stony Brook University*
CUNY Brooklyn College*	Lafayette College*	SUNY University at Albany*
CUNY City College*	Long Island University*	SUNY University at Buffalo
CUNY College of Staten Island*	Manhattanville College*	Syracuse University*
CUNY Guttman Community College*	Morehouse College*	Trinity University, DC*
CUNY Hunter College*	Morgan State University*	Trinity College, Connecticut*
CUNY John Jay College*	Muhlenberg College*	Union College*
CUNY Kingsborough Community College*	Nazareth College	University of Chicago*
CUNY LaGuardia Community College*	New York University*	University of Maryland*
CUNY Lehman College	Northeastern University*	University of Pennsylvania
CUNY Macaulay Honors*	Pace University*	University of Rochester
CUNY Medgar Evers College*	Pennsylvania State University*	University of Virginia*
CUNY New York City College of Technology*	Pitzer College*	Vaughn College
CUNY Queens College	St. John Fisher College*	Virginia State University
CUNY Queensborough Community College*	St. Lawrence University*	Wells College*
CUNY York College*	Skidmore College*	Wheaton College*
Cornell University	Smith College	Williams College*

Partnerships

Our theme of law and justice is further embedded into our curriculum thanks to long-term partnerships with Brooklyn Law School, Red Hook Community Justice Center, the Brooklyn District Attorney's Office, and our lead law partner, the Manhattan-based law firm, Cravath, Swaine & Moore LLP.

The Urban Assembly

SLJ is part of The Urban Assembly (UA), a network of 22 public schools throughout New York City. UA is dedicated to empowering underserved youth by providing them with the academic and life skills necessary for college and career success. UA works with the NYC Department of Education to create and support public schools where all students graduate and attain success in college and careers. UA works towards this goal by providing UA schools with intensive support around instruction, social and emotional learning, and college and career readiness.

www.urbanassembly.org

Adams Street Foundation

The Adams Street Foundation (ASF) serves the students of the Urban Assembly School for Law & Justice (SLJ) with high-quality, broad-based enrichment programs and college access services. As SLJ's non-profit affiliate, ASF offers students much-needed experiences and opportunities outside the classroom that provide the framework and motivation for SLJ's college-going culture, our students' college readiness, and our 100% college application rate. Programs and services of ASF include: internships, mentorships, on- and off-site extracurricular activities, pre-college summer programs, guest speaker series, college trips, community service opportunities, an early college awareness curriculum, and individualized college advising.

Adams Street Foundation Staff

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