



# INDEPENDENCE HIGH SCHOOL

5175 Refugee Road  
Columbus, Ohio 43232  
(Far East)

“Home of the 76ers”

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**Independence High School** is a traditional four-year high school with an enrollment of approximately 800 students. It is located in a residential area in the southeast section of the city of Columbus. Independence High School is also an English Language Learner (ELL) shelter site. The quality of the staff is the main reason that The Ohio State University has designated Independence as a Professional Development School (PDS), a site for the preparation of educators for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. Other colleges, such as, Ohio University, University of Dayton, and Capital University Masters in Education program use Independence as an internship opportunity for their students. I Know I Can College advisors are located in the building to facilitate students and families' college and career exploration, application process, and college education transition. Along with a number of community partnerships that offer leadership programs and other opportunities for the students who attend this school.

**Curriculum:** Independence offers Advance Placement courses in English. Students can also earn college credits as part of the College Credit Plus Program (CCP) at no cost for tuition and books. The CCP Columbus State Community college program has been particularly successful with the majority of the students earning A's and B's in college level courses. All students entering high school are viewed as future-college students as all must begin the process of preparing for a college prep diploma. Independence offers Spanish and is one of the three schools in the district that offers American Sign Language. Independence has after-school programs that provide opportunities for students to raise their GPA's, prepare for the Ohio State required tests and earn Virtual Credit Advancement Program credits.

**Activities:** Extra-curricular activities include: student government, National Honor Society, marching band, 76ers Show Choir, Liberty Belle drill team, cheerleading, Academic League team, chess club, Leadership Council, International Club, and Columbus Educators of Tomorrow. The Independence vocal music program is recognized nationally, as well as locally. The Singing 76ers and Show Choir were invited to participate in the Inaugural Festival competition in January, 2009. They remained in Washington, DC to attend the inauguration of President Barack Obama. The music groups collaborate every spring for a two-night production of Cabaret, a dinner-theater performance to showcase musical talent. “I Men” and “I Women” are programs within our school that promote leadership and community involvement. Members exemplify our school motto which encourages student “Integrity, Intelligence, and Involvement.”

**Athletics:** Interscholastic sports for boys include football, soccer, golf, basketball, wrestling, bowling, baseball, tennis, cross country, and track. Among girls' interscholastic sports are soccer, golf, bowling, volleyball, tennis, basketball, softball, cross country and track. Independence's athletic program has been awarded the OHSAA Harold A. Meyer Sportsmanship, Ethics, and Integrity Award annually. Independence was the first urban school to receive this award and the first repeat winner of this prestigious honor.