

Douglass Leadership Academy

A World-Class Boarding School for Low-Income American Students

Pro tip: If you don't have the time to read all this, feel free to chat with [DLA GPT](#). You can chat with it using voice or text. Go on, try it!

References

Website	https://douglassleadershipacademy.org/
FAQ's	DLA FAQ's
Primer on School Choice	https://www.edchoice.org/school-choice/fast-facts/

Overview Douglass Leadership Academy (DLA) is an innovative, globally situated network of mastery-based boarding schools. Our mission is to radically expand educational opportunity for underserved American students by leveraging educational arbitrage: delivering a \$60,000/year U.S. boarding school experience for \$10,000/year or less in low-cost-of-living (LCOL) regions around the world.

Our first campus launches Fall 2025 in Próspera, Honduras, in partnership with the [Khan Schools Network](#) and with support from education stakeholders like the Brooks School and advisors from Stanford and the University of Rochester. DLA is designed to not only transform the lives of the students we serve, but to act as a blueprint for scalable, globally distributed education infrastructure.

Why This Model?

- **Educational Arbitrage:** U.S. school vouchers and education savings accounts (ESAs), typically worth \$8–16K, struggle to cover tuition at domestic private schools. But in regions like Latin America or Africa, those same funds can cover comprehensive tuition, boarding, travel, healthcare, and more.
 - **Boarding for Impact:** Many students from low-income urban U.S. communities lack safe, supportive home environments. A boarding model provides a stable, immersive academic and personal growth experience.
 - **Global Immersion:** Students learn in international settings, building cross-cultural fluency and global competence while being part of a high-expectation academic community.
 - **Community Development:** Schools act as anchor institutions in host communities, bringing jobs, infrastructure, and education access that extend far beyond our student body.
-

Founding Pillars

- **Mastery-Based Learning:** Powered by Khan Academy's curriculum and technology, students progress at their own pace, mastering concepts before advancing.
 - **Residential Community:** Students live, learn, and grow together in thoughtfully designed residential campuses.
 - **Cross-Subsidization:** U.S. voucher funding supports both American and local students, creating a self-sustaining model that uplifts entire communities.
 - **Global Equity:** We create opportunities for underserved American students while simultaneously enhancing infrastructure, training, and outcomes in the regions where we operate.
-

Initial Campus: Próspera, Honduras

- Próspera is a next-generation charter city offering regulatory flexibility, safety, and a high-quality facility at a fraction of U.S. costs.
- Our Beta Building campus opens Fall 2025.

- We're working closely with the Khan Schools Network to build a fully integrated, mastery-based academic program.
-

Theory of Change

- **Input:** High-potential low-income students + ESAs/vouchers + high-quality staff + global setting
 - **Activities:** Boarding school education, mentorship, global exposure, rigorous academics
 - **Output:** Academic gains, college readiness, improved mindset, global citizenship
 - **Outcomes:** Higher college matriculation rates, increased economic mobility, strong alumni network
 - **Impact:** Structural poverty alleviation, new funding flows to developing regions, long-term systemic change in education access
-

Progress & Traction

- Pilot confirmed for Fall 2025
 - Facility secured at Beta Building in Próspera
 - Sal Khan and the Khan Schools Network supporting curriculum development
 - Advisory backing from leading economists and education experts
-

Challenges & Mitigations

- **Regulatory Hurdles:** Some state vouchers may not yet apply abroad. We're focusing on ESA states like Arizona while exploring legal pathways.
- **Cultural Fit:** Students and families may be hesitant about overseas boarding. We're investing in pre-departure orientation and strong pastoral care.
- **Accreditation:** We're working with Khan Schools and potentially Cognia to ensure smooth credit transfer and U.S. college eligibility.
- **Perception:** We anticipate some controversy around funding U.S. education abroad. Our model emphasizes quality, cost-effectiveness, and dual impact.

Why We're Not a KLS Partner (Yet)

- Our model may involve legal battles for voucher portability—we don't want to jeopardize Khan Academy's reputation.
- We aim to scale to 50+ campuses globally, potentially in controversial regions or policy environments.
- Remaining independent gives us the agility to move fast and innovate freely while still benefiting from Khan's curriculum support.

Next Steps

- Finalize 501(c)(3) and Board formation (in progress)
- Complete pitch deck and prospectus for funders and policy partners
- Recruit pilot cohort (10–20 students)
- Solidify staffing plan in collaboration with Khan Schools
- Launch donor engagement campaign (naming rights, founding supporters)

Call to Action If you're a:

- **Funder** interested in systems-level impact, global education, or school choice
- **Policy Expert** passionate about educational mobility or voucher reform
- **Local Partner** in Africa or Latin America seeking transformational collaboration
- **Parent** of a high-potential student seeking a bold alternative to traditional U.S. options

—we want to hear from you.

Let's reimagine education together.

Kevin Tusiime Founder, Douglass Leadership Academy

<https://douglassleadershipacademy.org>