

# Your Path

# Enrolling at DC Public Schools

A guide for families navigating the DCPS enrollment process, from start to finish.

## Discovery

### EdFEST (December)

- Attend the citywide school fair to learn about all DCPS schools.
- Ask questions, meet staff, and gather info before the lottery application opens.

### Online Resources

Visit the DCPS website for enrollment guides, key dates, and program highlights.

### Open Houses & School Fairs (November-March)

Tour schools, meet principals and teachers, and explore programs. [enrolldcps.dc.gov/node/16](https://enrolldcps.dc.gov/node/16)

## In-Boundary Path

(Right-to-Attend)

### Guaranteed Seat

Students in grades K-12 who live in-boundary for a DCPS school are guaranteed a seat at their neighborhood school.

[enrolldcps.dc.gov/node/41](https://enrolldcps.dc.gov/node/41)

### Enroll in Spring

Families can enroll their students in grades K-12 in their in-boundary school without the lottery.

## My School DC Lottery

(Non-Right-to-Attend)

**Apply:** Submit an application for schools you do not have a right to attend

**Rank:** Choose up to 12 schools in order of preference

### Key Dates

- **Mid-December:** Lottery opens
- **Early February:** Lottery closes for grades 9-12
- **Early March:** Lottery closes for grades PK-8
- **Late March:** Lottery results released and enrollment begins

### Who Must Apply Through the Lottery?

- Families applying for PK3-PK4 at ANY school
- Families applying for out-of-boundary schools
- Families applying for citywide schools
- Families applying for selective high schools

## Enrollment Timeline

(Late March-September)

- **Late March:** Lottery results released official enrollment opens
- **Late April:** Enrollment Saturday
  - Schools host events for families to submit forms
- **Early May:** Deadline for Lottery Matches
  - Secure your seat

## Enrollment Options

### Paper Enrollment

- Print or pick up an enrollment packet from the school office.
- Return documents in-person to the school's main office.

### Online Enrollment

- Access documents through the DCPS Enrollment Portal.
- Upload all required documents.

## Required Documentation

### Verification Requirements

- proof of DC residency
- proof of age
- proof of parentage

Learn more: [enrolldcps.dc.gov](https://enrolldcps.dc.gov)

### Health & Wellness Forms

- Universal Health Certificate—includes proof of immunizations
- DC Oral Health Assessment—dental check-up documentation

### Additional Forms (if applicable)

- Bus transportation request for students receiving special education services
- Athletics participation

## Programs & Communication

**Register for before and afterschool programs early.** Spots may be limited.

**Stay connected with your school** and look out for updates on first-day schedules, supply lists, and teacher assignments.

## First Day of School

**Every Day Counts:** Attendance is essential for success

- Show up on Day 1 ready to learn!
- Access the Parent Portal at [dcps.dc.gov/page/parent-portal](https://dcps.dc.gov/page/parent-portal)
- Find Attendance Info and Resources at [dcps.dc.gov/attendance](https://dcps.dc.gov/attendance)

