

SELECTIVE HIGH SCHOOL APPLICATION UPDATE FOR SCHOOL YEAR 2021-2022

On an annual basis, DC Public Schools (DCPS) aims to update our admissions policies and processes to ensure that all students in the district have equitable access to selective high schools while maintaining a high standard for excellence. In line with our district's commitment to equity and transparency, DCPS is excited to share information on the SY21-22 selective high school admissions criteria and components. The changes for School Year 2021-2022 include:

- **Removal of PARCC/Standardized Test Score Requirements:** Due to the cancellation of the SY19-20 PARCC, DCPS will not collect PARCC or other standardized test scores as part of SY21-22 admissions.
- **Grades and Attendance:** For schools that use these criteria, all schools will shift to collecting both the SY19-20 Final and SY20-21 Report Cards in order to provide consistency for families around required documentation.
- **Considerations for Virtual Admissions:** All schools are updating standard admissions procedures and components such as interviews to allow for virtual access, where possible. For the most up-to-date information on each schools' virtual accommodations, please visit individual school websites.
- **Distinct School Choices for Duke Ellington School of the Arts Departments:** For SY21-22, students will be able to select up to two distinct DESA departments (such as Visual Arts, Dance, Theater, etc.) in the My School DC Application, and more components of the DESA process will be collected through the My School DC application. This allows students to provide each of their desired programs with a unique ranking in the My School DC application.
- **Removal of the School Without Walls Admissions Test:** We must consider the realities of COVID and the implications this has for administering an in-person test to such a high volume of expected test takers. This, coupled with the limited ability to ensure a highly secure and equitably accessible virtual testing environment, was critical to the decision to eliminate the admission test for the SY21-22 admission season. This means that only a student's GPA and interview score will inform the eligibility and/or ranking of students for a seat at SWW.

In addition to the updates above, DCPS is also promoting transparency and equity of access through expanding our outreach and engagement with middle school staff who commonly support 8th grade students with high school applications, with a focus on staff that support students with Individualized Education Plans (IEPs) and who receive English Language Learner (ELL) services. Additionally, all schools will again post eligibility rubrics. A new resource first posted in SY19-20, schools will update eligibility rubrics this fall to provide clarity on how each school evaluates the required criteria. These rubrics will also include information on how they weigh each criterion and on how they determine student eligibility.

We also want families to know about the excellent schools right in their own neighborhood focused on ensuring their child is prepared for college and career. New in SY20-21, each DCPS 8th grade student will receive a Guide to College and Career Academies that will highlight high-quality college and career programming available at their in-boundary school and at DCPS high schools across the District. DCPS is excited to work with families to implement our vision for a great school in every neighborhood at every level, complemented by high-quality citywide options.

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SCHOOLS	APPLICATION COMPONENTS ^[1]			ADMISSIONS PROCESS ^[2]
	REPORT CARD	ESSAY	RECOMMENDATIONS <i>(Completed online through the My School DC application.)</i>	
<i>Bard High School Early College (Bard DC)</i>	Final SY19-20 and SY20-21 First Quarter required for 11 th graders only <i>GPA of 2.0 or above recommended</i>	Yes ^[3]	Math teacher; English teacher	Application review; Individual interview
<i>Benjamin Banneker High School</i>	Final SY19-20 and SY20-21 First Quarter	Yes	English teacher; Math teacher; Counselor	Application review; Family interview
<i>Columbia Heights Education Campus</i>	Final SY19-20 and SY20-21 First Quarter <i>Attendance should be included on report card</i>	No ^[4]	English teacher; Math teacher	Application review; Individual interview
<i>Duke Ellington School of the Arts</i>	Final SY19-20 and SY20-21 First Quarter <i>Attendance should be included on report card</i>	Yes ^[5]	Math teacher; Art teacher (or other); Counselor	Application review; Audition; Academic placement assessment; Family interview
<i>Early College Academy @Coolidge</i>	Final SY19-20 and SY20-21 First Quarter	Yes	English teacher; Math teacher	Application review; Family interview
<i>McKinley Technology High School</i>	Final SY19-20 and SY20-21 First Quarter <i>GPA of 3.0 or above recommended</i>	Yes <i>Completed during McKinley Tech interview, not through the My School DC application.</i>	English teacher; Math teacher; Counselor	Application review; Individual interview (essay conducted as part of interview)
<i>Phelps Architecture, Construction, and Engineering High School</i>	Final SY19-20 and SY20-21 First Quarter <i>Attendance should be included on report card</i>	Yes	English teacher; Math teacher	Application review; Family interview
<i>School Without Walls High School</i>	Final SY19-20 and SY20-21 First Quarter <i>GPA of 3.0 or above required on SY19-20 Final Report Card.</i>	No	None	Application review; Student & Parent interviews

^[1] PARCC scores will not be required as part of admissions for SY2021-22.

^[2] Visit [MySchoolDC.org](https://www.myschooldc.org) for more detailed information about schools' admissions processes.

^[3] Students who already provided a writing sample at one of the Bard DC Fall 2020 open houses will not need to provide an essay in the application.

^[4] Applicants are required to complete a student interest survey through the My School DC application.

^[5] Two programs at Duke Ellington School of the Arts (DESA) require additional information to be provided. Please visit [MySchoolDC.org](https://www.myschooldc.org) for more information.