DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

December 2025

SY26-27 District of Columbia Public Schools Enrollment and Lottery Handbook

DCPS Notice of Non-Discrimination
In accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008 and the D.C. Human Rights Act of 1977, as well as all subsequent amendments of these acts, District of Columbia Public Schools (DCPS) does not discriminate in its education programs or activities (including employment therein or admission thereto) on the basis of actual or perceived race, color, disability, religion, national origin, sex, age, marital status, personal appearance, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, family status, family responsibilities, matriculation, political affiliation, genetic information, source of income, credit information, or status as a victim or family member of a victim of domestic violence, sexual offense or stalking. Sexual harassment is a form of sex discrimination, which is prohibited by Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972. In addition, harassment based on any of the protected categories listed above is prohibited.

The policies and procedures discussed in this handbook are designed to ensure that DCPS does not discriminate on the basis of any of the above-referenced protected categories when admitting or enrolling students. To view our Notice of Non-Discrimination, relevant policies and to learn more about Anti-Discrimination within DCPS visit: dcps.dc.gov/anti-discrimination. For more information or to file a complaint, contact the Comprehensive Alternative Resolution & Equity (CARE) Team at 1200 First St NE, 9th Floor, Washington, DC 20002; by phone at (202) 442-5405 or by email dcps.care@k12.dc.gov or the (CARE) Team. In addition to receiving claims of discrimination, the CARE Team is also responsible for receiving claims of bullying, denial of rights, or unfair treatment a student, parent or visitor encounters at a DC Public School. For more information visit: https://dcps.dc.gov/page/studentparentvisitor-grievance-process.

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About the District of Columbia Public Schools Enrollment and Lottery Handbook

The District of Columbia Public Schools (DCPS) Enrollment and Lottery Handbook outlines and provides guidance to families and schools on the rules, guidelines, procedures, and practices for admission and enrollment in DCPS for School Year 2026-27 (SY26-27).

Key Terms

Adult Student: A student who is 18 or older at the time of enrollment and eligible to complete enrollment themselves. If an adult student is residing with a parent, the adult student may establish residency using the parent's address and verify District residency with a sworn statement and valid supporting residency documentation. If a student is under 18 at the time of enrollment but turns 18 during the school year, they remain a District resident and they do not need to re-submit enrollment paperwork through the end of the current school year.

- Review OSSE's Office of Enrollment and Residency Handbook for more details.

Citywide School: A school that does not have a designated boundary and therefore cannot be claimed as an in-boundary school. Citywide schools can only be accessed through the lottery and do not provide guaranteed enrollment to any student/family. Students from across the District of Columbia must submit a My School DC lottery application to attend a citywide school. Students are not eligible to receive proximity preference at citywide schools.

Compulsory Grade(s): Grade(s) that generally correspond to the age range during which students are required by law to attend school. In the District of Columbia, students are required by law to attend school between the ages of five (5) and eighteen (18), which corresponds to kindergarten through grade twelve (12). A student must be five (5) years old by or on September 30 to be considered compulsory school age and must enroll in kindergarten.

Custodian: A person to whom physical custody has been granted by a court of competent jurisdiction. (5-A DCMR § 5099**)**

Dual Language Program: A program that provides some or all its core instruction in a language other than English. Some dual language programs are whole school programs; some schools offer a dual language program strand and a non-dual language program strand. Dual language programs at strand schools require a lottery application to participate even if the student lives in-boundary to the school.

Early Action Pre-Kindergarten Schools: Early Action Pre-Kindergarten (PK) schools guarantee access to all in-boundary families in preschool (PK3) and prekindergarten (PK4). To secure an Early Action PK seat, in-boundary families must submit a My School DC lottery application online to their in-boundary school by the PK3-8 deadline. In-boundary families who submit a My School DC application by the deadline are guaranteed an Early Action PK match, if they are not matched to any other higher-ranked school.

Feeder Pattern School: A feeder pattern school is a school that a student has the right to attend based on completion of the terminal grade of a student's current school. This assignment only happens during the years

a student moves from elementary to middle school, or from middle school to high school, or from an education campus to high school. There are two types of feeder patterns:

- **Geographic Feeder Pattern:** Geographic feeder pattern schools are grouped by school boundary and proximity. Geographic feeder pattern rights extend to students who enrolled out-of-boundary through the My School DC lottery. Geographic feeder pattern rights do not extend to students who enroll as in-boundary students and then move out of the boundary, or to out-of-boundary students who withdraw before completing their school's terminal grade.
- **Programmatic Feeder Pattern:** Programmatic feeder pattern schools/programs are organized by a specialized program of study (such as dual language). A student's home address does not impact programmatic feeder pattern. A programmatic feeder pattern provides the right for a student enrolled in a specialized school/program to enroll in the next level school within the specialized course of study as they transition into an education campus, middle school, or high school. Programmatic feeder schools do not require a lottery application.

Formal Placement: A DCPS-identified school location that the student has a right to attend without having to enroll in their in-boundary school or submit a My School DC lottery application.

Guardian: A person who has been appointed legal guardian of a student by a court of competent jurisdiction. (5-A DCMR § 5099)

In-Boundary Preference: A lottery preference that only applies to DCPS PK3 and PK4 at in-boundary schools, or to students in K-5 applying to the dual language strands at their in-boundary elementary school. PK3 and PK4 applicants receive a lottery preference at their in-boundary DCPS school. K-5 students whose in-boundary school offers a dual language strand will also receive an in-boundary preference if applying to the dual language strand.

In-Boundary School (also Neighborhood or Zoned School): A school that a K-12 student has the right to attend based on a student's home address.

- To identify a student's in-boundary school, go to enrolldcps.dc.gov/node/41.

Location of Services: A Location of Services (LOS) is the school building where a student with a disability can receive the services according to their Individualized Education Program (IEP). The LOS should be as close as possible to the student's neighborhood school and be able to provide a Free and Appropriate Public Education (FAPE). The LOS may not follow the feeder pattern. A change in LOS does not mean the IEP and placement have changed.

. The LOS letter informs families which school their child should enroll in to receive their IEP services. Go here to see the guide to learn about how Location of Services are determined and self- contained classrooms by high school feeders.

Lottery Preference: A special designation given to My School DC lottery applicants, depending on specific criteria. DCPS assigns preferences to applicants and offers available spaces to students in accordance with the My School DC policies that DCPS implements.

Montessori: The goal of Montessori education is to foster a child's natural inclination to learn. Montessori teachers guide rather than instruct, linking each student with activities that meet their interests, needs, and developmental level. The classroom is designed to allow movement and collaboration, as it also promotes concentration and a sense of order.

My School DC Application: A single, online application that families must use to apply for the following: all DCPS PK3 and PK4 programs (including at their DCPS in-boundary school); DCPS out-of- boundary schools (PK3-12); former in-boundary or former feeder pattern school if a family moves out of their current school's boundary, DCPS dual language strand programs at any DCPS school (PK3-5); DCPS citywide schools (PK3-12); and DCPS selective high schools/programs (9-12). Participating DC public charter schools also use the My School DC application. The My School DC application is available at MySchoolDC.org. Families can call the My School DC hotline for application support including translation services: (202) 888-6336 Monday-Friday 8:00am-5:00pm.

My School DC Lottery: The common application and public-school lottery for all participating public and public charter schools in the District that serve grades PK3 12.

- **My School DC Post-Lottery Application:** Post-lottery applications should be used to apply to participating schools, if a family misses the lottery application deadlines for a given school year or seeks to add schools to an existing application. The post-lottery application period extends from the day after a lottery application deadline through Count Day, which is typically October 5, for all grades. Please note whenever October 5 lands on a weekend, Count Day is observed the following Monday. The My School DC Post-Lottery Application is also available at myschooldc.org.A mid-year lottery application is a post lottery application, that specifically is available the day after Count Day, which typically occurs on October 5, and extends to the end of the school year. This lottery application is for students in grades PK3-12 who move into the District or who seek to transfer from their current school to another DC public school (DCPS or charter) during a given school year.

Other Primary Caregiver: A person other than a parent, legal custodian, or court-appointed guardian who is the primary provider of care or control and support to a student who resides with them, where the student's parent, custodian, or guardian is unable to provide such care and support. Other Primary Caregivers must submit evidence that they are the primary caregiver of the student and establish DC residency as required on the DC Residency Verification (DCRV) form, in addition to establishing their status as an Other Primary Caregiver. *Please note: An individual who seeks to enroll a student as an Other Primary Caregiver is not the legal guardian or custodian of a student and the educational rights of parents, guardians, and custodians are not limited because their student is enrolled by an individual who meets definition of other primary caregiver.*

- Please visit the OSSE Office of Enrollment and Residency (OER) at osse.dc.gov/publication/other- primary-caregiver-forms to review the Other Primary Caregiver (OPC) Form.

Out-of-Boundary School: A school other than a student's in-boundary school (also neighborhood or zoned school).

Parent: The natural parent, stepparent, or parent by adoption who has custody or control of a student including joint custody. (5-A DCMR § 5099)

Participating Lottery School: Any DCPS school (or charter) that participates in the My School DC lottery. Most DCPS and DC public charter schools are participating lottery schools. Participating schools may not admit or enroll out-of-boundary or PK students outside of the My School DC lottery process. Students enrolled by one of the four DCPS formal placement teams are the only exceptions to this rule.

PK3 (also Preschool): An early childhood program that serves students who are no older than three years old on October 1 and no younger than three years old on September 30 of the school year they enroll.

PK4 (also Prekindergarten): An early childhood program that serves students who are no older than four years old on October 1 and no younger than four years old on September 30 of the school year they enroll.

Proximity Preference: A My School DC lottery preference provided to students who live greater than a half mile (0.5) walking distance from their zoned DCPS elementary school and apply to attend an out-of-boundary school that is a half mile (0.5) or less walking distance from their home. This preference only applies to students enrolling in grades PK3-5. This preference is pre-determined by Office of the Chief Technology Officer (OCTO) using geographic information system (GIS) mapping. Note that GIS technology differs from navigation apps, i.e. Google Maps, MapQuest, etc. DCPS and My School DC strictly adhere to the pre-determined distance calculations provided by OCTO, and these determinations are final. Proximity preference is not offered at citywide or selective schools.
Residency Verification: A part of the annual enrollment process that requires parents, guardians, custodians, adult students, or other primary caregivers to provide proof that they reside in the District of Columbia each school year. Residency verification is also required when there is an address change.

Right-to-Attend School: A DCPS school where students can enroll in grades K-12 and do not have to go through the lottery. There are two types of right-to-attend schools for DCPS K-12 students: in-boundary schools and feeder pattern schools. Students also have the right to re-enroll in their current school for the upcoming school year without having to go through the lottery.

Selective High School/Program: A DCPS high school/program that admits students based on specific eligibility criteria and requires a My School DC lottery application for entry into the school. All students eligible to enroll in grades 9-12 can apply, but only those who meet a selective high school's or program's requirements may receive an eligibility determination which may result in a lottery match or waitlist offer. Only students with a lottery match can enroll. DCPS selective high schools/programs have no boundaries and admit students only based on specific criteria. Students applying to one or more DCPS selective high schools/programs must complete additional sections of the My School DC application. The additional sections are different for each school or program because each school or program has its own requirements.

Sibling: A child who has at least one parent or legal guardian in common with a current DCPS student.

Sibling Attending Preference: A My School DC lottery preference provided to a student who has a sibling who resides in the same household as the student, as defined above, currently enrolled and attending at the same DCPS school where the preference is requested for the applicant sibling.

Sibling Offered Preference: A My School DC lottery preference provided to a student whose sibling (who also applied in the My School DC Lottery during the same lottery season) resides in the same household as the student has been offered a match at the same school through the lottery.

Specialized School or Program: A school or program that provides a different education experience than other schools or programs in DCPS or the school that houses the program. Some specialized schools/programs may have eligibility criteria. Specialized schools or programs at DCPS can include arts, dual language, early college, global studies, international baccalaureate, Montessori, STEM, and more.

STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math): STEM integrates science, technology, engineering, and math so that each of these content areas is taught within other content areas and equally alongside literacy and composition. The goals of DCPS STEM integration are to improve student readiness for STEM majors and careers as well prepare all students to be STEM literate citizens.

Terminal Grade: The final grade that a school offers, e.g., grade 5 for elementary schools, grade 8 for PK-8 education campuses and middle schools, and grade 12 for 6-12 education campuses and high schools.

Waitlist: A list that contains students who applied to enroll at a school, but were not matched through the My School DC lottery process. My School DC generates and maintains the waitlists of all schools participating in the lottery. However, schools determine whether space is available at their school, when to call students off the waitlist, and the deadline to accept or decline a waitlist offer. Schools offer available spaces to students in numerical order as determined by their waitlist, created by My School DC. Lottery preferences that students may qualify for also determine placement on the waitlist. Students with numbers 1 through 7 on a waitlist must be made offers in sequential order, with student number one on the waitlist receiving the first offer, followed by students 2-7.

DCPS Enrollment Admissions Methods

The three admission methods and applicable scenarios below are the only acceptable methods for DCPS enrollment.

Admission Method	Applicable Scenarios
1. By Right	1. The student's home address is within the boundary for the school of enrollment and the student will enroll in grades K-12. **All PK3 or PK4 students must submit a My School DC lottery application, including for their in-boundary school.** 2. The student completed the terminal grade in a school and will enroll in the designated geographic or programmatic feeder school entry grade. **Geographic feeder pattern rights do not extend to students who enroll as in-boundary students and then move out of the boundary or to students who have withdrawn from an out-of-boundary feeder pattern at any point.** 3. Student is re-enrolling for the next grade in their current school.
2. By My School DC Lottery	1. All new Preschool (PK3) and Prekindergarten (PK4) students, including their in-boundary school 2. All new students enrolling in a K-12 DCPS school outside a student's boundary or feeder pattern 3. All new students enrolling in a dual language strand of their in-boundary school (does not include whole school programs) (applicable for grades PK3-5 only) 4. All new students enrolling in a DCPS citywide school (PK3-12) 5. All new students enrolling in a DCPS selective high school/program (9-12)
3. By Formal Placement (Placement for students in the following circumstances are the only allowable exceptions to the standard in-boundary and lottery enrollment processes.)	1. **Division of Specialized Instruction:** Student is placed in a self-contained program 2. **Early Stages:** Students with disabilities placed into a reserved Early Stages priority seat for PK3 or PK4 3. **Language Acquisition Division:** English Learners placed into appropriate programs based on grade placement recommendations for students coming from outside the US and evaluation of foreign transcripts for secondary students 4. **Student Placement Office:** a. Youth Committed to the Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services (DYRS)/Supervised by Family Court Social Services Division (FCSSD) b. Children in the Custody of the Child & Family Services Administration (CFSA) c. Discretionary Out-of-Boundary Transfer d. Families Displaced by Natural Disasters e. Students of Military Families f. Victim, Involuntary, and Immediate Transfers (Safety) g. Victims of Domestic Violence (DC SAFE Lethality Assessment Project) h. Disengaged Youth and Opportunity Academy Referral Process i. Non-Dual Language Alternative School Placement (Sister School) j. Homeless Children & Youth Program Supports k. Migrant Families

Admissions by Right

Right-to-Attend K-12 Schools

Identify A Student's In-Boundary School
Visit: http://enrolldcps.dc.gov/node/41
Contact the DCPS Enrollment Team
enroll@k12.dc.gov

DCPS is a local public school system in Washington, DC. DC law requires students to attend school between their fifth (5th) and eighteenth (18th) birthdays[1] which generally corresponds to Kindergarten through grade 12. Students who are five years old by September 30 are considered compulsory age and are required to enroll in Kindergarten to attend a DCPS school. All DCPS schools are free to DC residents. Every compulsory age student who lives in Washington, DC, has at least one right-to-attend DCPS school per grade band — a school where they can enroll at any time. A right-to-attend school can be identified as a student's in-boundary school or feeder pattern school. Students may attend their right-to-attend school(s) for grades K-12 without applying through the My School DC lottery.

Current attendance boundaries and feeder patterns may be accessed via the DCPS website.[2] Feeder patterns are subject to change each year.

Grade Level Enrollment

PK3, PK4, and Kindergarten

For purposes of enrollment into PK and Kindergarten programs, DCPS adheres strictly to the age requirements defined in local regulations.

- A student who is no older than three (3) years old on October 1 and no younger than three (3) years old on September 30 of the school year they enroll is eligible for PK3.
- A student who is no older than four (4) years old on October 1 and no younger than four (4) years old on September 30 of the school year they enroll is eligible for PK4.

A student who is no older than five (5) years old on October 1 and no younger than five (5) years old on September 30 of the school year they enroll is eligible for Kindergarten.

SY25-26 Grade	Maximum Age	Minimum Age
PK3	No older than 3 on October 1, 2025	No younger than 3 on September 30, 2025
PK4	No older than 4 on October 1, 2025	No younger than 4 on September 30, 2025
K	No older than 5 on October 1, 2025	No younger than 5 on September 30, 2025

SY26-27 Grade	Maximum Age	Minimum Age
PK3	No older than 3 on October 1, 2026	No younger than 3 on September 30, 2026
PK4	No older than 4 on October 1, 2026	No younger than 4 on September 30, 2026
K	No older than 5 on October 1, 2026	No younger than 5 on September 30, 2026

DCPS does not allow special promotions to occur from PK3 into PK4 or from PK4 into Kindergarten. DCPS does not support retaining PK or Kindergarten students or permitting students to repeat PK3,PK4, or Kindergarten and such instances are extremely rare. Redshirting is delaying the start of formal schooling for a child by one year. In alignment with DCMR, DCPS does NOT allow redshirting because it exacerbates inequities between families who can afford an additional year of childcare and families who cannot.

For more information about Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten Enrollment, Promotions, and Retentions FAQs for Parents and Guardians visit https://dcps.dc.gov/ece.

1st-12th

[1] D.C. Official Code § 38-202(a).
[2] https://dcps.dc.gov/boundaries

Students enrolling in first grade or above must be enrolled based on their last completed grade, which is verified via an official report card or official school transcript from an accredited school. Documentation from childcare centers or medical professionals are not acceptable. In the absence of an official report card or official school transcript, students will be enrolled in their age-appropriate grade outlined in 5-E DCMR § 2004. Parents/Guardians are not permitted to choose the student's grade level of enrollment.

High school students (9-12) without an official transcript will be placed in the 9th grade regardless of age. Grade level in high school is determined by the number of credits earned for required content areas. A student will remain in the 9th grade until the new school receives the official transcript or homeschool portfolios, if the student was homeschooled, and updates the student's DCPS transcript to reflect credits earned. Homeschooled students may also be assessed to determine credits if they do not have portfolios of work to be evaluated.

After completing enrollment, if a family wants to explore promotion or retention for their student, the student may be assessed by DCPS for a grade adjustment. The family should discuss with the school principal, who will confer with their Instructional Superintendent and appropriate Central Service teams, about any concerns around promotion and retention.

- Review the DCPS Student Promotion Policy here.

Moving Out-of-Boundary after Enrolling

Where a PK-12 student has been attending an in-boundary school and then moves out-of-boundary while remaining in the District of Columbia, the student has the right to attend and may enroll in their new in-boundary school. All families are required to notify the school of any change of residence within three (3) school days of such change. After the terminal grade, the student has the right to attend the in-boundary school assigned for their next grade based on their home address and can apply to schools outside of the boundary via the My School DC lottery.[3] The student will lose their right to attend their old in-boundary feeder school and will need to apply through the My School DC lottery as an out-of-boundary student to attend that school, regardless of when the student .applies to students attending one of the Capitol Hill Cluster schools: Peabody Elementary, Watkins Elementary, and Stuart Hobson Middle School. These students maintain feeder rights until middle school regardless of if they enroll as in-boundary and later move out. This feeder right does not extend to the destination high school. This feeder right does not extend to the destination high school.

SY26-27 Feeder Patterns

The SY26-27 DCPS School Feeder Patterns are active for students who graduate from a terminal grade in SY25-26 and enroll at the next school in a feeder pattern in SY26-27. Feeder pattern rights allow students who complete the terminal grade in a school the right to enroll in the designated geographic or programmatic feeder school entry grade. Geographic feeder pattern rights do not extend to students who enroll as in-boundary students and then move out of the boundary or to students who have withdrawn from an out-of-boundary feeder pattern at any point. Feeder rights are subject to change based on student assignment phase-in policies and grandfathering clauses.

- Review thehttps://dcps.dc.gov/boundaries https://dcps.dc.gov/feederpatterns

[3] DCMR 5-A § 2105 (1977)

SY26-27 School Boundary Maps

SY26-27 Elementary School Boundary Map

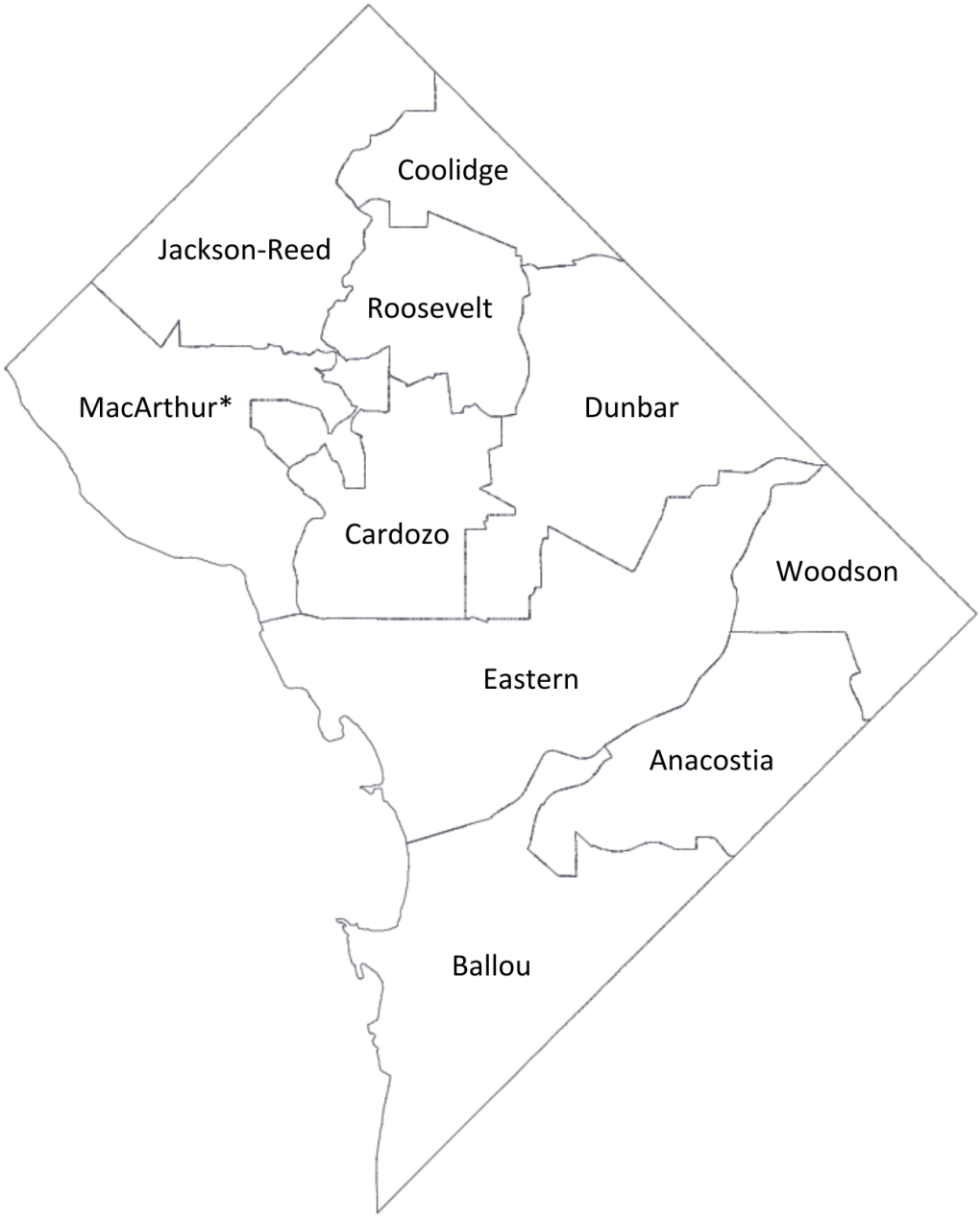
To identify a student's in-boundary elementary school, visit enrolldcps.dc.gov/node/41.

SY26-27 Middle School Boundary Map

To identify a student's in-boundary middle school, visit enrolldcps.dc.gov/node/41.

SY26-27 High School Boundary Map

To identify a student's in-boundary high school, visit enrolldcps.dc.gov/node/41.



Admissions by My School DC Lottery

About the My School DC Lottery

The Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE) oversees the My School DC Lottery in collaboration with the DME, DCPS, the DC Public Charter School Board and participating public charter schools. My School DC is governed by a board called the Common Lottery Board with representation from both DCPS and participating public charter schools. Families can apply and rank up to 12 schools on one common application per student.

Learn More about My School DC
Visit: www.myschooldc.org
Contact the DCPS Enrollment Team
enroll@k12.dc.gov

A My School DC lottery application IS required to:

- Apply to attend as a new PK3 or PK4 student who meets the age cut off requirements, at any DCPS school, including your DCPS in-boundary school
- Apply to attend grades K-12 as a new student who meets the age cut off requirements, at an out-of-boundary DCPS school
- Apply to attend a student's former in-boundary and/or feeder pattern school (for 6th or 9th) if you were attending a feeder to that school in-boundary but moved out of boundary before or during your terminal grade
- Apply to attend as a new student who meets the age cut off requirements, at a DCPS citywide school (PK3-12)
- Apply to attend as a new student at a DCPS selective high school/program (9-12)
- Apply to attend the dual language strand as a new student who meets the age cut off requirements, at one of the following elementary schools (PK3-5): Cleveland Elementary School, Marie Reed Elementary School, and Shirley Chisholm Elementary School 3-5 [4]

A My School DC lottery application is NOT required to:

- Enroll in grades K-12 at an in-boundary or programmatic feeder DCPS school
- Re-enroll in the current school or the current strand within the current school
- Enroll via a formal placement

The My School DC lottery process is available to all DC residents. No student shall be denied admission into DCPS as the LEA because of disabilities or suspected disabilities. No student shall be denied admission into DCPS based on their English language proficiency. However, DCPS may enroll the student at a different school within the LEA than where the student was matched to appropriately serve the student's IEP or ELL needs. A student's IEP status is not disclosed during the lottery application process. Lottery applicants are not required to provide information about a child's disability, including whether the child has an IEP, to schools to which they are applying in the My School DC lottery. Lottery seats offered do not guarantee that a student's IEP can be serviced at the school where the student received the match or waitlist offer. For more information regarding special education services, please contact the Division of Specialized Instruction dcps.specialed@k12.dc.gov.

Students with limited English proficiency can apply to any DCPS school. DCPS does not discriminate based on the language needs or preferred home language of students. The My School DC application asks for the guardian's preferred language to allow My School DC to better communicate with the guardian. It is not used for a student's placement and does not impact lottery results in any way.

[4] All families, including in-boundary families, need to apply to attend the dual language track at the three DCPS elementary schools that offer both a traditional and dual language strand: Cleveland ES, Marie Reed ES, and Shirley Chisholm ES (grades 3-5). In-boundary students will receive a preference but will not be guaranteed a seat. Students currently enrolled in the dual language strand will not need to apply to re-enroll. In-boundary students will not need to apply to attend the traditional strand.

Lottery applications may be submitted online via www.myschooldc.org. Lottery applications can also be completed via phone by calling the My School DC hotline at (202) 888-6336 Monday-Friday 8:00am-5:00pm, or at any DCPS school.

SY26-27 My School DC Lottery Application Timeline	
Saturday, December 6, 2025	2025 My School DC EdFEST (Grades 9-12)
Saturday, December 13, 2025	2025 My School DC EdFEST (PK3 – Grade 8)
Monday, December 15, 2025	My School DC Lottery Application Opens for all grades
Monday, February 2, 2026, 11:59pm EST	My School DC Lottery Application Deadline for grades 9-12
Monday, March 2, 2026, 11:59pm EST	Application Deadline for grades PK3-8
Friday, March 27, 2026	Lottery Results are Released; Enrollment Season Opens for SY26-27
Saturday, April 25, 2026	Enrollment Saturday
Friday, May 1, 2026	Lottery-Match Enrollment Deadline

Preschool (PK3) and Prekindergarten (PK4)

To enroll new three- and four-year-olds in school, all families must apply through the My School DC lottery. Families may enroll children in PK3 if the student is no older than three (3) years old on October 1 and no younger than three (3) years old on September 30 of the school year they enroll. Families may enroll children in PK4 if the student is no older than four (4) years old on October 1 and no younger than four (4) years old on September 30 of the school year they enroll.[5]

DCPS places a strong value on early childhood education and strives to make seats in these grades available to as many children as possible in a fair and equitable way. However, because students are not required by law to attend school until age five,[6] students are not generally guaranteed seats in PK3 or PK4.

Early Action PK

Early Action is the only guaranteed PK in the city. Early Action PK guarantees access to PK3 and PK4 programs for all in-boundary families at designated Early Action PK schools. To secure an Early Action PK seat, in-boundary families must submit a My School DC lottery application by Monday, March 2, 2026, 11:59pm EST deadline. The Early Action PK school must be included as a choice on the application and the school should be ranked in your true order of preference on the application. Families will receive an Early Action PK match at their in-boundary Early Action PK school *if* they are not matched to any other school ranked higher on their My School DC lottery application.

If the child is matched with the in-boundary school, the family must enroll the student by the lottery enrollment deadline (Friday, May 1, 2026), to accept the offer and secure the seat. If a student is matched with a PK3 or PK4 seat at a school ranked higher than the in-boundary school, the student will no longer qualify for Early Action PK at the in-boundary school but will still retain their in-boundary preference at the school if they choose to apply again.

SY26-27 Early Action PK for in-boundary families in PK3 and PK4 will be available at the following schools:

1. Browne Education Campus (Ward 5)
2. Bunker Hill Elementary School (Ward 5)

[5] 5-E DCMR § 2004.
[6] D.C. Official Code § 38-202(a).

3. Burroughs Elementary School (Ward 5)
4. Drew Elementary School (Ward 7)
5. King Elementary School (Ward 8)
6. Langley Elementary School (Ward 5)
7. Lorraine Whitlock Elementary School (Ward 7)
8. Miner Elementary School (Ward 7)
9. Moten Elementary School (Ward 8)
10. Noyes Elementary School (Ward 5)
11. Stanton Elementary School (Ward 8)
12. Takoma Elementary School (Ward 4)
13. Thomson Elementary School (Ward 2)
14. Truesdell Elementary School (Ward 4)
15. Turner Elementary School (Ward 8)
16. Wheatley Education Campus (Ward 5)

Out-of-Boundary Neighborhood Schools

For students eligible to enroll in grades K-12 who wish to attend an out-of-boundary neighborhood school, families must apply through the My School DC lottery.

Learn about DCPS School Options
Visit: http://profiles.dcps.dc.gov/
Contact the DCPS Enrollment Team
enroll@k12.dc.gov

Citywide Schools

A citywide school is a school that does not have a boundary and therefore cannot be claimed as an in-boundary school by any student. Students must submit a My School DC lottery application to attend a citywide school at any grade but are able to re-enroll the next school year without applying. Students are not eligible to receive proximity preference at citywide schools.

Selective High Schools/Programs

DCPS has nine (9) selective high schools/programs that admit students based on specific admissions processes and selection criteria. To be considered for admission to a selective high school/program, all students must submit a My School DC lottery application. Any students eligible to enroll in grades 9-12 can apply to these schools or programs, but only those who meet a selective high school's/program's specific admissions criteria will be eligible to receive a lottery match or waitlist offer. For more information on selective high school rubrics and selection criteria, see: https://enrolldcps.dc.gov/node/201.

Lottery Preferences

Students may be eligible for a lottery preference at one or more schools. Students with a preference at a school are offered space at that school before students who do not have a preference or, if waitlisted, receive a higher waitlist placement than students without a preference. A lottery preference does not guarantee a match or a waitlist offer.

Learn about the Lottery Algorithm
This video explains how the algorithm works.
Contact My School DC
info.myschooldc@dc.gov or (202) 888-6336
Contact the DCPS Enrollment Team
enroll@k12.dc.gov

DCPS assigns lottery preferences to students to match them with schools in their neighborhoods and keep siblings together. The following preferences are extended to SY26-27 for DCPS lottery applicants who meet specific criteria:

1. Equitable Access preference (PK3 and PK4 applicants only)
2. In-boundary preference (PK3/PK4 and dual language strand applicants only)
3. Sibling preference

4. Proximity preference

Waitlist Movement

Log into your family account to see your student's waitlist positions in real time. Your student's waitlist number can move up and down for various reasons. For example as other waitlist offers are accepted/declined, a student's number may decrease or as post-lottery applicants with preferences apply, a student's current waitlist number may increase. Waitlist numbers will also move up and down due to the nature of the sibling offered preferences: one child receiving a waitlist offer at a school may result in their sibling moving up on the waitlist. You can change the ranking of your schools after lottery results are released if your ranking preferences change, but this does not change your student's position on a waitlist.

Additionally, some available lottery seats at schools with Equitable Access Designated Seats are reserved for qualifying applicants.

1. Equitable Access Preference (PK3/PK4 applicants)

Eligible applicants are those who meet at least one of OSSE's at-risk criteria:

- Experiencing homelessness,
- In the District's foster care system,
- Receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) or Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits, or
- In high school and are one year older, or more, than the expected age for the grade in which they are currently enrolled.

2. In-Boundary Preference (PK3/PK4 applicants and dual language strand applicants only)

To provide families with a better chance of securing a PK3 and PK4 seat at their in-boundary school, families who apply for a PK3 or PK4 seat are provided with an in-boundary preference at their in-boundary school through the My School DC lottery.

Identify A Student's In-Boundary School
Visit: http://enrolldcps.dc.gov/node/41
Contact the DCPS Enrollment Team
enroll@k12.dc.gov

- *Note on dual language strands:* For elementary schools that offer both a traditional and a dual language strand (Cleveland Elementary School, Marie Reed Elementary School, and Shirley Chisholm Elementary School, in-boundary students will receive a preference but will not be guaranteed a seat in the dual language strand. In-boundary students continue to have a right to attend the traditional (non-dual language) strand in K-5 at those schools. Please note for SY26-27 Shirley Chisholm in-boundary only students in grades 3-5 - continue to have a right to attend the traditional (non-dual language) strand. Students currently enrolled in the dual language strand will not need to apply to re-enroll for the following school year.

How to Claim: No action is needed. The in-boundary preference is automatically applied to a My School DC lottery application based on the applicant's home address. A family's in-boundary home address is verified at the school level at the time of enrollment as part of the DC residency verification process.

Please note families unable to verify DC residency and residence within the school's boundary at the time of enrollment will forfeit the preference and will have their offer (and subsequent enrollment) removed. They will be placed back on the school's waitlist according to their random lottery number and any other preference for which they previously qualified, but without the in-boundary preference.

3. Sibling Preference

Enrolling siblings together at school is beneficial to students, families, and schools. As such, DCPS provides a sibling preference through the My School DC lottery. Students with a sibling who currently attends the DCPS school where the preference is requested and will attend the same school for the upcoming school year, or whose sibling has also received a match or waitlist offer to the same school for the upcoming school year, will receive sibling preference. A sibling is a child who has at least one parent or legal guardian in common with a current DCPS student and resides in the same household as the student. There are two types of sibling preference: Sibling-Attending and Sibling-Offered.

Sibling-Attending Preference

Sibling-attending preference is provided to students who, at the time of enrollment, have a sibling currently attending the DCPS school listed on the student's My School DC application and the sibling will continue attending the school during the school year for which the applicant is applying. The purpose of this preference is to keep siblings together in the same building. Therefore, the attending sibling cannot be in a terminal grade at the time the student's application is submitted. Families who will enroll a student in the upcoming school year can claim a sibling-attending preference for a sibling applying to the school, provided the student who will be enrolling has the right to attend based on in-boundary or feeder rights or a formal placement into the school.

> **Example 1:** If John is currently enrolled in third grade at Patterson Elementary School and plans to return to that school for fourth grade, then his sibling is eligible to receive a sibling-attending preference at Patterson Elementary School through the lottery for the following school year.
>
> **Example 2:** If John is a new student who will attend Patterson Elementary School because he lives in-boundary for a compulsory grade at Patterson, then his PK3/PK4 sibling is eligible to receive a sibling-attending preference at Patterson Elementary School through the lottery for the following school year.
>
> **Example 3:** If John is currently enrolled in fifth grade at Patterson Elementary School and will be attending another school for sixth grade the following school year, his sibling is NOT eligible to receive a sibling-attending preference at Patterson Elementary School through the lottery for the following school year.

Please note that if the attending student does not re-enroll and attend for the following school year, the sibling who received a sibling attending preference will forfeit their match or waitlist offer, or have their enrollment revoked. In these cases, the applicant will be placed on the school's waitlist based on other eligible preferences, but without the sibling preference.

How to Claim: On step 1 of the application, under Sibling Preference Information, select "Yes" to the question "Does the student have any siblings attending a DCPS and/or Charter School?" and enter in the attending sibling's information. If you have more than one child attending a DCPS school be sure to add in each additional child's information by clicking on the "Add Sibling" link at the bottom of the page. For current students, the sibling's DCPS student ID number must also be provided. If the student will attend and does not currently have a student ID number, input "0000000" (seven 0's) as the student ID number – *this option is only available to families planning on enrolling as an in-boundary student.* Confirm with the school's registrar, or within the application itself using the preference status page, that this preference has been applied prior to the lottery. After the lottery, these preferences are applied only when the older sibling is enrolled.

Obtain Student ID Numbers
Contact: The school of the sibling.
Contact the DCPS Enrollment Team
enroll@k12.dc.gov
Contact My School DC
info.myschooldc@dc.gov or (202) 888-6336

Sibling-Offered Preference

Sibling-offered preference is provided to students whose siblings are matched or receive a waitlist offer to a school through the My School DC lottery.

> **Example:** If John and his sibling submit a My School DC lottery application for the same schools and John is matched to a school through the My School DC lottery, a sibling-offered preference is automatically applied to his sibling's My School DC lottery application.

How to Claim: No action is needed if the siblings' My School DC applications are submitted through the same My School DC family account. This preference is automatically applied through the My School DC lottery matching process.

Please note if the sibling who was offered a space at the school does not enroll and attend, the "sibling offered" preference will be removed for all siblings that applied to that same school. This may result in the siblings losing their match or moving down on the waitlist at that school or the school revoking enrollment. The siblings will remain on the school's waitlist but will be assigned a new waitlist position based on their random lottery number and any other preference for which they qualified.

Special Application of Sibling Preference

Capitol Hill Cluster Schools

(Peabody Elementary School, Watkins Elementary School, and Stuart-Hobson Middle School): For the purposes of the lottery, a student with a sibling who will or does attend any of the Capitol Hill Cluster schools may request and is eligible for a sibling preference at any of the schools in the Cluster, subject to the sibling enrolling in the school.

Dual Language Strands/Programs

Dual language strands/programs place additional emphasis on sibling preference because of the value of in-home exposure to language acquisition. *As such, a sibling preference is weighted more heavily than an in-boundary preference at these schools/programs.*

Schools with Multiple Strands

For students who are enrolled in a DCPS school with both a dual language and non-dual language or Montessori and non-Montessori strand (Cleveland Elementary School, Langdon Elementary School, MacFarland Middle School, Marie Reed Elementary School, Nalle Elementary School, Roosevelt High School, or Shirley Chisholm Elementary School), the sibling is eligible to receive sibling-attending preference in the My School DC Lottery in either the traditional, dual language or Montessori program at that school.

Selective High Schools/Programs

- Sibling preference is <u>not</u> offered at selective high schools/programs.
- Sibling preference is <u>not</u> offered between non-selective schools and associated selective high schools/programs, namely Anacostia Early College High School, Columbia Heights Education Campus, Early College Academy at Coolidge High School, and McKinley Technology High School. For example, when a student attends McKinley Technology High School, their sibling does not receive a lottery preference for McKinley Middle School (the associated school) and vice versa.

Verification of Sibling Attending Preference

Validity of sibling preference will be verified by the school in cooperation with DCPS Enrollment Team.

Verify Sibling Preference
Contact the DCPS Enrollment Team
enroll@k12.dc.gov
Contact My School DC
info.myschooldc@dc.gov or (202) 888-6336

If a sibling preference is found to not be valid before the release of My School DC lottery results, the preference will be removed from the lottery application, and the family will be notified by email (if one was provided in their My School DC application) or phone call from the school (only if no email is provided in their My School DC application). If a student receives a sibling preference and it was not valid, the student must forfeit the sibling attending preference, will have their match, waitlist offer, or enrollment removed, and will be placed on the school's waitlist without the preference. Additionally, if the attending student does not re-enroll for the following school year the applying sibling who received a preference will also forfeit the sibling attending preference, and will have their match, waitlist offer, or enrollment removed. In these cases, the applicant will be placed back on the school's waitlist according to their random lottery number and any other preference for which they previously qualified, but without the sibling preference.

4. Proximity Preference

To minimize the burden of travel to schools for families, DCPS provides a proximity preference through the My School DC lottery for families with children in PK3-5 who have been zoned for a DCPS school that is more than a half-mile walking distance from their home. These families receive a proximity preference in the lottery at all DCPS neighborhood schools offering these grades that are less than a half-mile walking distance from their home. The following citywide schools do not apply proximity preference: Capitol Hill Montessori @ Logan, Dorothy I. Height, Excel Academy, Military Road Early Learning Center, School-Within-School @ Goding, and Stevens Early Learning Center.

For schools that have multiple campuses (Oyster-Adams Bilingual School, Peabody Elementary School and Watkins Elementary School), proximity preference is calculated separately for each building depending on the grade and the student's address. For example, proximity preference for a student applying to a grade served by Peabody Elementary School is determined based on the Peabody Elementary School location and not the Watkins Elementary School location.
Note: The Proximity Preference only applies to permanent building locations.

How to Claim: No action is needed beyond ranking that school in your lottery application. This preference is automatically applied to a My School DC lottery application based on home address and grade level (PK3-5). Eligibility for proximity preference is set by OCTO using GIS technology which calculates the walking distance from the address entered to the surrounding schools. Note that GIS technology differs from navigation apps, i.e., Google Maps, MapQuest, etc. DCPS and My School DC strictly adhere to the pre-determined distance calculations provided by OCTO, and these determinations are final.

Equitable Access

At-risk identification for this preference means OSSE has a record that the applicant has met at least one of the proxy measures for at-risk status. Those measures identify students who are homeless, in the District's foster care system, receive TANF or SNAP, or are high school students at least one year older than the expected age for their grade.

Equitable Access Preference

For SY26-27, the following schools will offer an in-boundary equitable access preference for PK3 and PK4 applicants only: Brent Elementary School, Browne Education Campus, Bruce-Monroe Elementary School, Eaton Elementary School, Garrison Elementary School, Hearst Elementary School, Hendley Elementary School, John

Lewis Elementary School, Ketcham Elementary School, King Elementary School, Lafayette Elementary School, Mann Elementary School, Marie Reed Elementary School, Payne Elementary School, Powell Elementary School, Savoy Elementary School, Tubman Elementary School, and Turner Elementary School.

Equitable Access Designated Seats

A portion of seats are reserved for applicants that have been identified as "at-risk." Equitable Access Designated Seats in neighborhood schools are only available to qualifying students who live in-boundary.

- For SY26-27, the following neighborhood schools will designate equitable access seats for in-boundary PK3 and PK4 applicants only: Amidon-Bowen Elementary School, Barnard Elementary School, Burrville Elementary School, H.D. Cooke Elementary School, J.O. Wilson Elementary School, Maury Elementary School, Miner Elementary School, Oyster-Adams Bilingual School, Shirley Chisholm Elementary School), Stoddert Elementary School, and Van Ness Elementary School.
- For SY26-27, the following citywide schools will designate equitable access seats for PK3 and PK4 applicants only: Capitol Hill Montessori, Dorothy Height Elementary School, Excel Academy, Military Road Early Learning Center, School-Within-School Elementary School, and Stevens Early Learning Center.
- For SY26-27, the following school will designate equitable access seats across all grades: John R. Thompson Jr. High School.

How to Claim: No action is needed beyond ranking that school in your lottery application and giving consent for My School DC to confirm your eligibility for an Equitable Access Preference and Designated Seat when prompted in the application. If a family provides consent and is found eligible for an Equitable Access Preference and Designated Seat, My School DC will automatically add this selection to the applicant's lottery application. Eligibility for an Equitable Access Preference and Designated Seat is determined by OSSE and other DC government data.

In the event that an Equitable Access preference has been denied, the following options can be used to appeal the decision:

- Appeal Option 1:
    1. School contacts My School DC with the appeal request
    2. My School DC checks for data errors
    3. If an error is found, My School DC will apply the preference. If no error is found, move to Option 2.
- Appeal Option 2:
    1. Enrolling parent/guardian provides documentation to school
    2. School enrollment staff reviews documentation
    3. If eligible, school submits a form to My School DC to request the correction on the application. If not eligible, the student remains in current waitlist position.

Preference Change

Families who become newly eligible for a preference or who failed to include an eligible preference on their My School DC lottery application may still be able to claim their preference after the release of lottery results.

How to Claim: A family should provide documentation to the school to verify the preference change. Once verified, the school will work with the DCPS Enrollment Team and My School DC to add the preference to the lottery application. My School DC will place the applicant in the appropriate order on the waitlist, based on the random lottery number and the added preference.

Lottery Results

The My School DC Lottery is a single, random lottery that aims to match students with their preferred

schools, while also taking lottery preferences into account. While families can apply and rank up to 12 schools, the lottery may match students with no more than one school.
On Friday, March 27, 2026, the My School DC lottery results will become available for SY26-27. Families can receive lottery results by logging in to their My School DC family account. Families who included an email address on their application will also receive their lottery results by email. Families who did not provide (an email address on their application will be mailed a results letter to the address listed on the application one week after results are released. Families will receive a separate email and letter for each child's application. Families who do not receive their results by email or have trouble logging into their My School DC account can also learn results by calling the My School DC Hotline at (202) 888-6336, Monday through Friday, from 8:00am-5:00pm beginning March 27, 2026.

To secure a lottery seat, families must enroll their student at the matched school by the enrollment deadline, Friday, May 1, 2026, by the end of the school day. If a student is matched and not enrolled in the matched school by the enrollment deadline, the offer can be declined and the school is not obligated to provide the seat to that student.

For families who have received a lottery match but do not have a physical presence in the District and cannot provide sufficient proof of District residency, the lottery match will not be held beyond 14-calendar days past the deadline. Families that fail to enroll their student after the 14-calendar day extension, will be required to reapply via the My School DC lottery, once they have acquired a physical presence in the District and can provide sufficient proof of District residency.

My School DC lottery results have four possible outcomes:

1. Match with school ranked first, not waitlisted at any other ranked schools
2. Match with school NOT ranked first, waitlisted at all schools ranked higher than match
3. No match, waitlisted at all ranked schools
4. Ineligible students will not be matched or waitlisted for a selective high school/program

1. Students Matched with School Ranked First

Students matched with their first-ranked school will not be waitlisted at any other ranked school. The only exception to this is for applicants who have a sibling who matched to a school ranked lower on their application. After being matched an applicant will be placed on the waitlist for any school their sibling is matched to even if the school was ranked below where they are matched. If a student opts to decline said match, they can remain waitlisted for the school their sibling matched with.

Post-Lottery Applications

Should a student forego a lottery-matched seat at a first-ranked school, they may enroll at their DCPS in-boundary school in compulsory grades (K-12). Families may also submit a post-lottery application via My School DC if they missed the lottery application deadline or would like to apply to additional schools.

2. Students Matched with School NOT Ranked First

Students matched with a school that was not ranked first in their lottery application will be waitlisted at all schools ranked higher than their match. Students will not be waitlisted at any school ranked lower than the matched school.

The only exception to this is for applicants who have a sibling who matched to a school ranked lower on their application. After being matched an applicant will be placed on the waitlist for any school their sibling is matched to even if the school was ranked below where they are matched.
Note: This does not apply to selective high schools/programs.

Families who are matched are encouraged to enroll at their matched school by the enrollment deadline, even if it is not their first choice, to avoid losing that seat. Enrolling at the matched school does not jeopardize waitlist spots at the other schools. After families enroll at a matched school, they may later enroll at a different school if called from a waitlist, removing them from their currently enrolled school.

3. Students NOT Matched

Students not matched with any school have the right to stay at their current school or enroll in their right-to-attend school (K-12). Students not matched will also be waitlisted at all schools ranked on their lottery application. Families also have the option to apply to additional schools via a My School DC post-lottery application at www.myschooldc.org/postlotto.

If a student has applied to one or more selective high schools/programs and the selective school/program(s) finds the student ineligible, they will not be waitlisted. In addition, they will have the option to apply to additional schools after the lottery results are released via a My School DC post-lottery application at www.myschooldc.org/postlotto.

- Review the full list of possible lottery results and status definitions at myschooldc.org/faq/lottery-results-and-status-definitions.

Lottery Results for Selective High Schools/Programs

To be considered for admission to a selective high school/program, a My School DC lottery application must be submitted; however, admission is based on specific admissions processes and selection criteria. If a student does not meet a selective school or program's eligibility requirements, the student will be marked ineligible. Ineligible students cannot be matched or waitlisted for that school.

Waitlists

Waitlists reflect the order in which students would be enrolled at a school if seats become available. The order of waitlists at DCPS schools is based on lottery preferences and application period (lottery or post-lottery). Lottery applicants are placed on waitlists using their random lottery number, and post-lottery applicants are placed on waitlists in order of submission date.

Waitlisted students at DCPS schools are grouped by preference:

- Students within the same preference group are ordered according to the time in which they applied (i.e., lottery or post-lottery).
- Students within the same preference group who applied are ordered according to their random lottery number.
- Students who apply post-lottery (after Monday, February 3, 2025, for grades 9-12 and after Monday, March 3, 2025, for grades PK3-8) are added to the end of the appropriate preference group in order of application submission time and date.

Note: There are circumstances in which students may be moved **down** on a waitlist due to application circumstances that qualify other applicants for a higher preference category. Learn more at https://www.myschooldc.org/node/29661.

DCPS selective high schools/programs rank students when determining eligibility based on the admissions criteria and process. This ranking also allows schools to manage their grade level waitlists. Unlike other schools, selective schools/programs use rankings to determine an applicants' waitlist position. Since waitlists are ordered based on how students are ranked, waitlist positions may fluctuate as new post-lottery applicants are added.

How to claim a waitlist offer: If seats become available, school staff will contact families on the waitlist in chronological order via email and phone to make waitlist offers. My School DC will also send an automatic email notification to any applicant who receives a waitlist offer if an email address was provided on the application. Families will be notified of the deadline by which they must enroll to secure their lottery seat. If a family is unresponsive or does not complete the enrollment process by the specified deadline, the lottery seat offer may be withdrawn, and the school may move on to the next student on the waitlist to fill the seat. Families who hope to be called off a waitlist to receive an offer should verify that their contact information is correct on their My School DC application, as that is the contact information the school will use. If contact information changes at any time, families should immediately update their My School DC account or contact the My School DC Hotline at (202) 888-6336 to seek help in making the updates.

To accept a lottery seat, a family must submit enrollment paperwork to the school, including DC residency verification.

The typical deadline to accept a waitlist offer is five (5) business days after the offer is sent. Schools have the flexibility to increase or decrease that timeline which can grow shorter closer to the start of school and once school is in session. Families should work directly with the school if they need additional time. In the rare case in which a family is given 24-hours' notice to accept a waitlist offer, families will receive an email and phone call from the school.

For families who have received a waitlist offer, but do not have a physical presence in the District and cannot provide sufficient proof of District residency, the waitlist offer will not be held beyond 14-calendar days past the offer deadline. Families that fail to enroll their student after the 14-calendar day extension, will be required to reapply via the My School DC lottery, once they have acquired a physical presence in the District and can provide sufficient proof of District residency.

Waitlist Order by Preference for Schools/Programs

Below is the waitlist order by preference for traditional and dual language schools/programs. For dual language schools/programs, preferences in PK3 and PK4 are ordered differently than for traditional schools/programs in one respect. For dual language schools/programs, out-of-boundary sibling applicants are prioritized before in-boundary applicants with no sibling.

Traditional Lottery and Post-Lottery	Dual Language Lottery and Post-Lottery
1. In-boundary applicant with a sibling attending (PK only)	1. In-boundary applicant with a sibling attending (PK only)
2. In-boundary applicant with a sibling offered (PK only)	2. In-boundary applicant with a sibling-offered (PK only)
3. In-boundary applicant (with no sibling) (PK only)	3. Out-of-boundary applicant with a sibling attending
4. Out-of-boundary applicant with a sibling attending	4. Out-of-boundary applicant with a sibling offered
5. Out-of-boundary applicant with a sibling offered	5. In-boundary applicant (with no sibling)
6. Proximity Preference	6. Proximity Preference
7. Out-of-boundary applicant (with no other	7. Out-of-boundary applicant (with no other

preference)	preference)
Equitable Access Preference – Neighborhood Schools (PK3 and PK4 only)	**Equitable Access Preference – Citywide Schools (PK3 and PK4 only)**
1. In-boundary at-risk with a sibling attending 2. In-boundary at-risk with a sibling offered 3. In-boundary at-risk	1. At-risk with a sibling attending 2. At-risk with a sibling offered 3. At-risk

Admissions by Formal Placement

About Formal Placements

There are four teams in DCPS Central Services that grant an eligible student admission to certain schools by formal placement: Division of Specialized Instruction (DSI), Early Stages, Language Acquisition Division (LAD), and the Student Placement Office (SPO). Please note, students who are placed in a school by any of these teams will still trigger sibling attending preference for a family if they are seeking enrollment at the same out-of-boundary school. Students who receive a formal placement from one of these teams are not required to submit My School DC Lottery applications unless they are referred to a Selective High School/Program. Students that are referred to Selective High Schools/Programs must complete the admissions process to fidelity. Siblings of placed students must still submit a My School DC Lottery application and receive a match or waitlist offer, to complete enrollment.

Division of Specialized Instruction Location of Services

Special Education Questions
Contact the Division of Specialized Instruction
dcps.specialed@k12.dc.gov
Learn about DCPS Self-Contained Feeder Patterns

The Division of Specialized Instruction (DSI) students offers students a Location of Services (LOS) in a self-contained classroom as close as possible to the neighborhood school. If your child receives a match or waitlist offer to a school through the My School DC lottery that is different from the one identified in the LOS letter, the DSI assigned LOS will supersede the lottery match or waitlist offer. To further understand how DSI assigns an LOS for a student with 20 or more hours of specialized instruction on their IEP please visit the DC Special Education Hub Family Empowerment Video Series website https://specialeducation.dc.gov/page/family-empowerment-video-series.

Newly Identified Special Education-Eligible PK3 and PK4 Students (Early Stages Placements)

Early Stages Questions
(202) 698-8037 or referrals@earlystagesdc.org

Early Stages is a DCPS evaluation center for children aged two years eight (8) months to five years ten (10) months. Early Stages oversees the developmental screening and evaluation processes for unenrolled children to identify those who may be eligible for special education and related services.

PK3/PK4 children who have been newly found eligible for special education or who have an existing IEP and wish to receive services will be offered a seat in a school by Early Stages if (1) they do not already have access to a DCPS school (i.e., they are not already enrolled and have not been offered a lottery seat) or (2) their current DCPS school cannot implement their IEP. This process occurs outside of the My School DC lottery. Whenever appropriate and possible, the seat offered will be in the child's in-boundary school. If a seat is not available in the in-boundary school, the seat offered will be in the next school closest to the family's home where a seat is

available and at which the IEP can be implemented. A family accepts an Early Stages seat by enrolling at the school offered. If the child was on the My School DC lottery waitlist of that school, they will be removed from it. Acceptance of an Early Stages seat does not affect a child's position on the waitlist at other schools. In some cases, children offered a PK3 priority seat may not have turned three by the September 30 cutoff; however, they are entitled to enroll so that they can receive IEP services. Such children are re-enrolled in PK3 for the following year.

Students Who May be Eligible for English for Speakers of Other Languages-ESOL (Language Acquisition Division)

Upon enrolling in DCPS and completing the Home Language Survey questions, students who have indicated they speak a language other than English or have been primarily exposed to a language other than English at home are referred to the LAD Welcome Center for English Proficiency screening. LAD's Welcome Center screens potential ML students to determine English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) eligibility, recommendations for ESOL instructional programming and grade placement, orientation to linguistically and culturally diverse families, referrals to community-based resources, evaluation of middle school and high school foreign transcripts for the purpose of awarding high school credits, and may provide formal ML Student Placements. For more information, visit our webpage and/or contact Raquel Ortiz at raquel.ortiz@k12.dc.gov.

Secondary students who previously attended school outside of the United States and completed high school courses in either middle school or high school should be referred to the LAD Welcome Center for the Foreign Transcript Evaluation Process.

Student Placement Office
3535 V Street, NE Washington, DC 20018
(202) 939-2004 or Student.Placement@k12.dc.gov

Student Placement Office Transitions

The DCPS Student Placement Office (SPO) works with students and families on finding school placements for students in special circumstances occurring outside the standard in-boundary and lottery enrollment processes. A formal placement notification will be provided to all students assisted by the SPO. The SPO provides enrollment support and placement for students who may be impacted by any unique circumstances. Contact the SPO for questions about any of the situations below.

1. Youth committed to the Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services (DYRS)/Under the Supervision of the Family Court Social Services Division (FCSSD)
2. Children under the supervision of the Child & Family Services Administration (CFSA)
3. Discretionary Out-of-Boundary Transfer Requests
4. Families displaced by natural disasters
5. Students of military families
6. Victim, Involuntary, and Immediate Transfers (Student Safety and Offenses)
7. Victims of domestic violence (DC SAFE Lethality Assessment Project)
8. District of Columbia's Mayor's Office for Victim Services
9. Disengaged youth and Opportunity Academy referral process
10. Migrant families
11. Students experiencing housing instability

Discretionary Out-of-Boundary Transfers

The DCPS Chancellor may exercise their authority to grant discretionary out-of-boundary transfers to students in extremely limited situations. For more information on the process and criteria considered, and how to apply for a Discretionary Out-of-Boundary Transfer, review the full policy at dcps.dc.gov/node/1253426.

Children in Foster Care (DC Child & Family Services Administration)

Children and youth in the care and custody of the DC Child & Family Services Agency (CFSA) are residents of the District and entitled to enroll in and attend DC public schools, including when they are temporarily placed in foster-care settings outside of DC, in Maryland or Virginia. To prove a foster youth's DC residency, the school can request a ward letter issued by the court, stating that that the child is currently placed in the custody of CFSA and listing the address of the child's current foster placement. Lottery applications for children and youth in foster care can also be submitted, even if they are not currently residing in the District. For more information about youth in foster care and the My School DC lottery, please visit https://www.myschooldc.org/faq/faqs#foster

In addition, Every Students Succeed Act (ESSA), requires schools to provide foster youth with certain legal protections to support their educational stability and attainment, including:

Right to Remain in their School of Origin A child in foster care has a right to remain in their school of origin upon their initial entry to care or subsequent to any change in foster care placement, unless it is determined that remaining in the school of origin is not in their best interest. The school of origin is the school that a child or youth attended before they entered foster care, or the school in which the child or youth was last enrolled before their change in placement.

Right to Immediate Enrollment: Schools of origin and/or in-boundary schools must immediately enroll foster youth and ensure they receive educational and related services for which they are eligible even if they are unable to produce documents normally required for enrollment (birth certificates, immunization records, etc.). Additionally, enrolling schools must immediately contact the school last attended by the child to obtain relevant academic and other education records.

Schools can contact the DCPS Student Placement Office for assistance with foster youth's best interest determinations and enrollments.[7] Foster families or social workers may also contact the Student Placement Office at (202) 939-2004 or student.placement@k12.dc.govmailto:Jamesf.Brooks@k12.dc.govfor more assistance.

Military Families

School-age children of military families face obstacles to educational success, such as frequent moves and the deployment of one or more of their parents. Children of active-duty military families who are eligible to enroll in grades K-12 and reside on military facilities within the District of Columbia, namely Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling, Fort McNair, Navy Yard, and the Marine Barracks Washington DC, may enroll in the DCPS school of their choice, at any point during the school year, pending classroom/program availability and any applicable admission criteria. For military families interested in enrolling a student in PK3 or PK4, they must apply via the My School DC Lottery and receive a match or waitlist offer. The Student Placement Office does not offer placements for PK3 and PK4 students.

- Read the Chancellor's Directive on Enrollment and Placement of Military Families at dcps.dc.gov/page/enrollment-students-military-families.

In addition to students residing on the above-referenced military facilities, DCPS assists all compulsory-aged students of military families with enrollment and school location determinations. For military families in need of assistance with enrolling in DCPS, please contact the Student Placement Office at (202) 939-2004 or student.placement@k12.dc.gov.

Please contact the DCPS Student Placement Office at (202) 939-2004 or student.placement@k12.dc.gov with

[7] For more information about education stability for children in foster care, please see OSSE and CFSA's joint guidance available at https://osse.dc.gov/publication/osse-and-cfsa-issue-joint-essa-foster-care-guidance-leas.

questions related to any of the situations described above.

Displaced Families and Youth Experiencing Homelessness

The McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Act ("McKinney-Vento"), amended by ESSA, guarantees educational rights and supports for students experiencing homelessness.[8] McKinney-Vento defines "homeless children and youth" as individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, including children and youths who are:

- **Doubled Up** – sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason;
- **Living in Hotels/Motels** – living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations;
- **Sheltered** – living in emergency or transitional shelters; or abandoned in hospitals;
- **Unsheltered** – having a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings; or living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings;
- **Unaccompanied Youth** – youth who are not in the physical custody of a parent/guardian and qualify as homeless because they live in any of the above-described circumstances; and
- **Migratory** – migratory children who qualify as homeless because they live in any of the above-described circumstances.

Enrollment Rights of Displaced Youth

Under McKinney-Vento, students experiencing homelessness have the following enrollment rights:

School of Origin. The school of origin is the school that a child or youth attended when permanently housed, or the school in which the child or youth was last enrolled, including a preschool. (Section 722(g)(3)(I)(i)). When a child or youth completes the final grade level served by the school of origin, the school of origin includes the designated receiving school at the next grade level for all feeder schools (such as when an elementary school feeds into a middle school). (Section 722(g)(3)(I)(ii)).

Local School Enrollment. The local school i.e., in-boundary school is any public school that non-homeless students who live in the attendance area in which the child or youth is living are eligible to attend. (Section 722(g)(3)(A)). The right to immediate enrollment extends to in-boundary neighborhood schools only; it does not extend to citywide and selective schools.

Best Interest Placement. When determining a child's or youth's best interest, a Local Education Agency (LEA) must consider student-centered factors, including factors related to the impact of mobility on achievement, education, health, and safety of homeless children and youths, giving priority to the request of the child's or youth's parent or guardian or (in the case of an unaccompanied youth) the youth. (Section 722(g)(3)(B)(ii)). LEAs are also encouraged to consider the school enrollment of siblings when making this determination.

Best Interest determinations are driven by the safety of the child or youth, special education needs, attendance concerns, school enrollment of siblings, or other unique circumstances. This determination is approved by the Families and Youth in Transition Program Manager and the appropriate Instructional Superintendent.

Schools of origin and/or local schools (in-boundary schools) must immediately enroll displaced youth and

[8] 42 U.S.C. 11431 et seq.

ensure they receive educational and related services for which they are eligible even if they are unable to produce documents normally required for enrollment (birth certificates, immunization records, etc.). Documents that may be provided to prove DC residency but are not required include:

- A placement letter from Virginia Williams Family Resource Center or the shelter where families/youth are temporarily residing; or
- A signed letter from the person the family is temporarily residing with stating the parent/guardian and their child(ren) are temporarily residing with them. This is also an option for unaccompanied displaced youth.

Students experiencing homelessness cannot be denied enrollment and attendance at their school of origin or in-boundary school if they are unable to prove DC residency or proof of age. The school may work with the student and family to obtain any missing documentation (immunization records, birth certificates, etc.). During this period, the student can attend school. If documentation is collected, it may be determined that the in-boundary school is not the school currently attended, and the student will be directed to complete enrollment at either the in-boundary school or their school of origin or apply to other schools via the My School DC lottery.

If a family is denied enrollment at the school the family believes is the student's school of origin or in-boundary school, the school must provide the family with OSSE's McKinney-Vento Act Dispute Resolution Policy and Guidelines. The school-Based McKinney-Vento Liaison must also provide the student with a written explanation of the school's decision regarding school selection or enrollment, including the rights of the parent, guardian, or youth to appeal the decision. The Dispute Resolution Guidelines can be found here: OSSE Dispute Resolution Guidelines or on the DCPS Homeless Families and Youth in Transition Program webpage at https://dcps.dc.gov/fytp. For more information, please contact the DCPS Families and Youth in Transition Program at dcps.fytp@k12.dc.gov or call (202) 576-9502.

School-based McKinney-Vento Liaisons

Every school has a designated School-Based McKinney-Vento Liaison who supports displaced families and youth. The liaison can assist with:

- Immediate enrollment;
- Resolving enrollment disputes;
- Parent involvement opportunities and connection to community resources;
- Connecting students and parents to educational services and other resources (e.g., transportation assistance, uniforms, school supplies, verification of displaced status for financial aid; and
- Ensuring children, unaccompanied youth, and families have access to and receive educational services for which they are eligible, including Head Start, early intervention (IDEA Part C) and other preschool programs.

Please contact DCPS Homeless Liaison/FYTP Program Manager at (202) 576-9502 or dcps.fytp@k12.dc.gov, for questions or concerns regarding displaced families and youth.

Migrant Families

Migrant families are typically covered under McKinney-Vento and schools must enroll these students immediately. The Families and Youth in Transition Program places families experiencing homelessness and are supported by the LAD team in working with migrant families. Families experiencing homelessness have the right to attend the school in which they receive a placement and/or the school that is in-boundary to where they are temporarily being housed. Migrant Pre-K students can be placed by LAD and do not have to enter through the lottery to enroll in the identified location.

Migrant families provided with enrollment assistance will receive a formal placement letter to be given to the school. If available, schools should incorporate Proof of Age documentation, however, Proof of Age is not required under McKinney-Vento. If a family does not have a DC address, the family can use their last known address, even if international. The student should NOT be delayed from receiving educational services enrolled due to their initial vaccination compliance. For the purposes of re-enrollment, families do not need to provide the placement letter again if they are still being housed at the shelter and returning to the same school.

Enrollment

To enroll in a DCPS school, all families must submit a completed enrollment packet either in-person or via online enrollment through ASPEN to the school and proof of all eligibility prerequisites, which includes sufficient proof of DC residency based on OSSE requirements.[9] DCPS requires all families to prove residency **within 10 calendar days from the date of enrollment**. Families who do not provide proof of District residency within this timeframe may be excluded from attending DCPS until sufficient proof of residency is submitted. Except for the private enrollment in a designated CBO, a student may not be simultaneously enrolled at two schools. Once a student is enrolled at a new school, they may lose access to their former school's feeder pattern. Students may enroll at their current in-boundary school at any time.

- Complete and submit the DCPS enrollment packet at https://enrolldcps.dc.gov/node/71

Required Enrollment Documentation

In addition to proof of DC residency documentation, new to DCPS families are also required to provide proof of age, proof of student legal name, and proof of parental relationship, guardianship or custodianship– examples include a birth certificate, hospital records, court order, adoption decree, previous school records, passport, visa, naturalization forms, baptismal certificate, or proof of paternity, coupled with a state issued ID. Families that are re-enrolling at DCPS are only required to provide proof of parental relationship, guardianship or custodianship if there is a different enrolling person from the previous school year. A state or government issue ID is required for all enrolling persons of new and re-enrolling students.

If a family wants to make changes to any student demographic information including student name, gender or DOB, legal documentation must be provided. However, if a family wants their student to be addressed by a name other than their legal name, they should contact their school level enrollment POC, who can enter the student's preferred name into the ASPEN database. Student legal names will be listed on all report cards, transcripts, suspension records, and attendance rosters. Below is an example of where the Preferred Name is listed in the DCPS student information system, ASPEN.

Online Enrollment Platform

Enrollment must be completed either in person at a school or through the online enrollment platform via ASPEN. Other versions of electronic enrollment will not be accepted as they do not meet the signature

[9] 5-E DCMR § 2000.1

requirements outlined by the Office of the State Superintendent. The DCPS online enrollment platform via ASPEN is available to all families including re-enrolling families and families new to DCPS. To complete online enrollment, returning families must use the email address associated with their existing ASPEN Parent Portal account. New families can create an account using a personal email address. If a family has logged into the platform, but is unable to view all their students, please reach out to enroll@k12.dc.gov. To learn more about online enrollment and access enrollment forms and resources, please visit https://enrolldcps.dc.gov/node/76.

- Contact your schoolor enroll@k12.dc.gov with any questions related to online enrollment.

Lottery Enrollment

If a student is not enrolling in their in-boundary and/or feeder (K-12) school, re-enrolling in their current school, enrolling in an Opportunity Academy, or enrolling via formal placement, they must be matched through the My School DC lottery. To enroll in a lottery-matched school, a family must submit required enrollment forms to the school and verify DC residency by the lottery enrollment deadline (Friday, May 1, 2026). After the lottery enrollment deadline, schools are not obligated to enroll lottery-matched students and may begin to offer remaining seats to students on their waitlist.

By enrolling into a lottery-matched school, a family acknowledges they are giving up the student's rights to their current school for the upcoming school year and the current school's feeder pattern, if the student's current school is not an in-boundary school. As a reminder, students may not be enrolled in a DCPS school if simultaneously enrolled at another LEA school, nor can students be simultaneously enrolled at more than one DCPS school. Additionally, once a student withdraws from their out-of-boundary school to attend another lottery-matched school via DCPS or charter, or to attend a private, homeschool, or any other school, the student loses rights to enroll in the current school and loses rights to the current school's feeder pattern. The student will be required to reapply via the My School DC lottery if they wish to return to their former out-of-boundary school. However, a student always maintains the right to attend their in-boundary school in grades K-12.

DC Residency Verification Guidelines

Every family in DCPS must prove DC residency annually as part of the enrollment process.[10] Families who obtain a seat through the lottery must fully complete the enrollment process, including the DC residency verification process, to claim their seat.

- Review the DC Residency Verification Guidelines. For more in-depth information regarding each residency verification type, please review the Office of Enrollment and Residency Handbook.

Families called from the waitlist will be expected to prove DC residency by a specified enrollment deadline. New or relocating families who will not be able to prove DC residency by the enrollment deadline should contact their matched school or contact the DCPS Enrollment Team at enroll@k12.dc.gov.

Homeless or displaced families in DC may be exempt from certain requirements as provided in the McKinney-Vento Act of 2001.[11] Students that are Wards of the District and living in foster care or other District-assigned placement should provide the school with their Ward of the District letter as proof of DC residency.

Proving residency in the District of Columbia is a threshold requirement for tuition-free attendance at DCPS, with the exception of students covered by the McKinney-Vento Act of 2001.[11] DCPS has ultimate discretion in determining whether a student has sufficiently proven DC residency. If DCPS determines that

[10] D.C. Official Code § 38-306.
[11] 42 U.S.C. 11431 et seq.

a student is unable to sufficiently prove residency in DC, the student will be excluded from attending DCPS tuition-free.

After a non-residency determination, families may seek a reconsideration of the initial decision, but enrollment will not be allowed until the following semester. DCPS will consider allowing enrollment in the current semester on a case-by-case basis, depending on the individual circumstances (e.g., whether DCPS is obligated to provide special education services to the student). If a student has been excluded from DCPS based on insufficient proof of District residency, a home visit must be conducted to prove District residency before that student is allowed to enroll within DCPS in the future. In addition, DCPS will refer any suspicions regarding the DC residency of currently enrolled DCPS students to the OSSE Non-Residency investigation unit.

Investigation and Suspicion of Non-DC Residency

All investigations related to suspicions of non-DC residency of currently enrolled DCPS students are handled by OSSE, which has established a hotline to receive tips and information regarding suspicions related to non-DC residency.

DCPS takes suspicions of non-DC residency extremely seriously. Reasonable suspicions by DCPS school staff and administrators, families, and other concerned citizens should be reported to OSSE. To report allegations of suspicions of non-DC residency to OSSE and request a residency investigation, notify OSSE by submitting a tip online or call (202) 719-6500.

School Health Requirements

Students in all grades are required to submit a Universal Health Certificate and an Oral Health Assessment annually. The Universal Health Certificate must be completed by the student's physician or nurse practitioner to document all immunizations, necessary screenings, and a physical exam performed annually by the start of school. The Oral Health Assessment should be completed by the student's dentist to document the most recent annual visit to the dentist and identify any additional oral health services a student might need. These forms should be submitted at the time of enrollment and no later than the first day of school unless current valid forms (i.e., documenting visits that occurred within the past 365 days) are already on file with the student's school. The Universal Health Certificate and Oral Health Assessment forms are included in the DCPS enrollment packet found at https://enrolldcps.dc.gov/ or can be picked up from the school nurse.

Immunizations

DC Law requires each student attending DCPS to present valid immunization certification, documenting that they have been immunized in accordance with current DC Health immunization requirements, to their school prior to the first day of classes. Immunization compliance is documented by submitting a completed Universal Health Certificate or a copy of immunization records to the school. Unless you obtain a medical or religious exemption from DC Health, DC law requires your child to receive immunizations to attend school. Students who do not submit documentation will receive a notification of non-compliance and may not be allowed to attend school until proper documentation is submitted.

- More information about the District Immunization Enforcement Policy is found on OSSE's website at osse.dc.gov/node/1460386#families.
- More information about immunization requirements or on finding a local pediatric immunization clinic in the District can be found through DC Health at dchealth.dc.gov/service/immunization.

Medication/Medical Care During the School Day

Although not required for enrollment, families must turn in additional paperwork, completed by a medical

provider, for students requiring medications, medical treatments, or additional medical care while at school or school sponsored activities. Students cannot receive medication during the school day, or carry medication in their backpacks, unless the proper forms are submitted. More information is available at https://enrolldcps.dc.gov/node/71 or from the school nurse.

For questions about school health requirements or meeting student health needs at school, please contact (202) 664-2002 or healthservices.dcps@k12.dc.gov or talk to the school nurse.

Athletic Student Enrollment

DCPS Athletics Team Questions
athletics.dcps@k12.dc.gov

Participation in DCPS student athletics is contingent upon successful enrollment into a DCPS school. Until the student completes enrollment into the school, which includes sufficiently proving DC residency, and proof of compliance with vaccination requirements, the student cannot participate in the school's athletic programs. Failure to adhere to DCPS enrollment policies will result in a student being declared ineligible to participate in interscholastic athletics and the school forfeiting all contests during which an ineligible student participates. For more information, review the DCPS Athletics Handbook via www.thedciaa.com.

Withdrawals

Withdrawal Questions
Contact dcps.withdraw@k12.dc.gov

Compulsory-aged students may only be withdrawn from DCPS upon request of the parent, legal guardian, or custodian. If a student has been enrolled by an Other Primary Caregiver, any parent, legal guardian, or custodian may withdraw the student, but the school will notify the Other Primary Caregiver prior to the withdrawal, Consent from the Other Primary Caregiver is not required.

To complete a student's withdrawal, DCPS must receive valid confirmation of the student's enrollment into another school or confirmation that an exception to the compulsory education rule applies to the student, for example the student is permanently incapacitated or is under 18 but completed the requirements for a high school diploma. Valid confirmation includes a DCPS withdrawal form completed by the receiving school, official written confirmation from the receiving school that the student is enrolled, or a request for records from the receiving school. Additionally, student information will not be released to the receiving school until documentation required for the withdrawal is completed. Students of compulsory-age who leave or stop attending school without providing confirmation of enrollment at another school or confirmation that an exception to the compulsory education rule applies to the student will be subject to truancy protocols and processing until confirmation is received. Adult students may withdraw themselves from DCPS at any time and such students are not subject to the truancy and compulsory education requirements explained above.

Students with Special Enrollment Circumstances

Section 504 Program

Section 504 Questions
Contact the Section 504 and Student Accommodations Team
(202) 442-5471 or 504@k12.dc.gov
Visit: https://dcps.dc.gov/page/section-504

Section 504 is part of the federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973, created to prevent discrimination against individuals with disabilities in services, programs, and activities that receive federal funds. 504 plans provide accommodations and related services to eligible students with disabilities so that they can access the general education curriculum, opportunities for learning, and school activities to the same extent as their non-disabled peers.

Every DCPS school has at least one staff member designated to serve as the 504 Coordinator by the school

principal. The 504 coordinator serves as the school's main point of contact for questions from students, parents, and school staff regarding accommodations and services under Section 504. Upon enrolling in a DCPS school, families should reach out to the school's 504 Coordinator if they believe that their student may qualify to receive accommodations or services through a 504 plan.

Opportunity Academies

Opportunity Academy Questions or Referrals
Contact the Student Placement Office
Student.Placement@k12.dc.gov or (202) 939-2004

DCPS has three Opportunity Academies (Ballou STAY, Garnet-Patterson STAY, and Luke C. Moore) that offer a personalized competency-based learning program to ensure that all students in the District have a positive pathway to post-secondary success. Students who could benefit from a non-traditional setting may be referred for transfer or may elect to pursue entry to an Opportunity Academy. Transfer priority will be determined based on how many credits a student has earned relative to their first ninth grade year, the intensity of interventions attempted at the current high school and the student and parent/guardian's preference for a transfer. Below is additional information on enrollment guidelines:

- Opportunity Academies are optional; students are not mandated to attend an Opportunity Academy.
- Opportunity Academies do not participate in the My School DC lottery process.
- Opportunity Academy students requiring full-time special education programming can be accommodated at Ballou STAY and Luke C. Moore.
- Opportunity Academy Students requiring English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) services/programming can be accommodated at Garnet-Patterson STAY.
- Students currently enrolled in another DCPS school should go through the referral process for the Opportunity Academies.
- Students who are 17 and under and not enrolled in a DCPS school may pursue Opportunity Academy enrollment through the Student Placement Office.
- Students who are 18 years and older and not currently enrolled in a DCPS school may pursue enrollment directly at any point in the year at an Opportunity Academy and admission will be granted based on available space.
- Opportunity Academies have adopted an alternative enrollment pattern.

For additional information about each of the Opportunity Academies, please visit http://dcps.dc.gov/page/opportunityacademy.

Embassy Families

Identify a Student's In-Boundary School
Visit: http://enrolldcps.dc.gov/node/41
Contact the DCPS Enrollment Team
enroll@k12.dc.gov

If families are residing in embassy-sponsored housing within DC, they can prove DC residency by providing a current (issued within the last 12 months) embassy letter that explains this, with the embassy seal affixed. The address of the embassy-sponsored housing determines the student's in-boundary school. If families residing in embassy housing within DC want to attend a school other than the in-boundary school zoned for the address of the embassy property, they must apply via the My School DC lottery.

Foreign Exchange Students

Enrollment Requirements

Per OSSE[12], the LEA shall maintain a list of all enrolled foreign exchange students. Additionally, to ensure the foreign exchange student is part of a legitimate program and to satisfy residency verification requirements, the enrolling person must submit and/or the school must supply, documentation that proves the following:

1. The student is part of a legitimate, US Department of State-approved, foreign exchange program.
2. The school is participating in the program.
3. The host family for the student are verified DC residents.

Documentation shall be available for OSSE review upon request and maintained in accordance with all residency record retention policies. OSSE does not certify or approve foreign exchange programs. The LEA is responsible for completing all necessary steps required by any federal agency to serve foreign exchange students, including, but not limited to, the US Department of State.

All foreign exchange students attempting to enroll in a DC public school or public charter school must adhere to My School DC policies. Foreign exchange students who seek enrollment in a selective DCPS high school/program, must complete the admissions process to fidelity. Host families enrolling foreign exchange students must submit all required enrollment documentation and forms, including the DCRV form. Host families should complete these forms as the student's parent or guardian.

Foreign Exchange Students Seeking Visa Sponsorship

DCPS is not a Student Visitor Exchange Program (SEVP) certified school district. Consequently, DCPS schools are not authorized to sign I-20 forms for foreign exchange students seeking F-1 or M-1 visa sponsorship. For more information, please visit the following link from the Department of Homeland Security's website at https://studyinthestates.dhs.gov/school-search. Families with additional questions regarding visa sponsorship are encouraged to contact an immigration attorney.

Immigration Status

DCPS is committed to protecting the right of every student to attend public school regardless of immigration status or national origin. Accordingly, DCPS allows all eligible District of Columbia residents to attend its schools without inquiring about a student's or family's immigration status. For more information, visit https://dcps.dc.gov/publication/immigration-guidance

Mid-Year Application Process

The Mid-Year Application Process is for students in grades PK3-12 who move into the District or who seek to transfer from their current school to another DC public school (DCPS or charter) during a given school year. The application is used to apply to all participating My School DC schools. No application is needed for K-12 students who wish to transfer or enroll into their in-boundary school. The mid-year application period extends from October through March before new lottery results are released during any given school year. After lottery results are released, families are still required to apply via My School DC. Waitlists are maintained by the DCPS Enrollment Team until the end of the school year. New students or students seeking a transfer must complete a mid-year application by calling the My School DC Hotline at (202) 888-6336 Monday-Friday 8:00am-5:00pm. All mid-year applicants MUST receive a waitlist offer before being enrolled.

[12] https://osse.dc.gov/sites/default/files/dc/sites/osse/service_content/attachments/SY23-24_ForEx_Guidance_03282023.pdf

Non-DC Residents

For Non-DC Resident Questions
Contact the DCPS Enrollment Team
enroll@k12.dc.gov

DCPS may approve enrollment of a non-resident student only if there is space available and no qualified District resident is seeking admittance at that school, only in grades K-12. DCPS does not allow PK students to apply to be non-DC resident students. Non-DC resident families must submit a My School DC lottery application for a DCPS school, and a seat will only be granted if there are no DC residents on the school's waitlist. If a family asserting DC residency is unable to prove DC residency at the time of enrollment, the student will be moved to the end of the waitlist behind all other waitlisted DC residents and any other non-DC residents already waitlisted. In the event that DC residency is later confirmed, the DCPS Enrollment Team, the school, or the parent can contact My School DC to have their waitlist position adjusted. Additionally, non-resident families must pay tuition to attend a DC public school.[13] OSSE manages the non-DC resident tuition payment process. A family must work directly with OSSE on establishing a tuition payment agreement and making tuition payments. If you intend to enroll a non-resident student, contact OSSE at osse.residency@dc.gov. **Non-resident students are not eligible to attend class until OSSE has confirmed that a tuition agreement has been signed and initial tuition payment has been submitted.**

- For information regarding OSSE tuition collection, visit osse.dc.gov/publication/tuition- collection.

Students that transition from DC resident to non-resident are only eligible to remain enrolled at their DCPS school without re-applying under the following limited circumstances:

- A DCPS student who is enrolled and attending the terminal grade of a school who becomes a non-resident student during that school year may be approved to finish the year as a tuition-paying student. Continued enrollment is dependent on having a signed tuition agreement and paying non-resident tuition. Contact OSSE for questions at osse.residency@dc.gov.
- A DCPS student who would have re-enrolled in the terminal grade of a school in September, but who became a non-resident student during the school year or summer prior to that final grade year may be approved to continue to attend as a tuition-paying student. Continued enrollment is dependent on having a signed tuition agreement and paying non-resident tuition. Contact OSSE for questions at osse.residency@dc.gov.
- A ward of the District of Columbia, who is no longer a ward because they were placed in the permanent care and custody of a parent, guardian, or custodian who resides outside of the District of Columbia, can continue attending the DCPS school they attended at the time they their ward status ended, without paying tuition, until they complete the terminal grade of that school. If the former ward was enrolled in DCPS but attended a Non-Public school through a special education placement at the time their ward status ended, they may continue attending their Non-Public school as a DCPS student through the end of the school year following the year their ward status ended.[14] Students in this situation are not required to pay tuition.

DCPS Selective High School/Program Admissions Requirements

Students applying to one or more DCPS selective high schools/programs must complete an additional section of the My School DC application. The additional section is different for each school or program because each school/program has its own requirements.[15] Contact the DCPS Enrollment Team with questions at enroll@k12.dc.gov.

[13] 5-A DCMR § 5007.1
[14] DC Code 38-302(e)
[15] Students who do not have their previous year's final report card readily available due to recent school closures may be able to use the first advisory report card of the current school year as part of the eligibility determination. Such families should contact the schools directly.

1. Anacostia Early College High School: https://www.anacostiahigh.org/
2. Benjamin Banneker Academic High School: www.benjaminbanneker.org
3. Bard High School Early College DC (Bard DC): https://bhsec.bard.edu/dc/
4. Columbia Heights Education Campus (CHEC): https://checdc.org/
5. Duke Ellington School of the Arts: https://www.ellingtonschool.org/
6. Early College Academy at Coolidge High School: https://www.coolidgeshs.org/
7. McKinley Technology High School: https://mckinleytech.org/
8. Phelps Architecture, Construction and Engineering High School: https://phelpshsdc.org/
9. School Without Walls High School: https://www.swwhs.org/

In addition to school websites, you can also review DCPS selective high school/program application requirements and admissions processes at https://enrolldcps.dc.gov/node/201.

Citywide, Dual Language, and Montessori Schools/Programs

Citywide Schools

1. Capitol Hill Montessori @ Logan (PK3-8)
2. Dorothy I. Height Elementary School (PK3-5)
3. Excel Academy (PK3-8)
4. Leckie Education Campus – Middle Grades Only (6-8)
5. Military Road Early Learning Center (PK3-PK4)
6. Ron Brown College Preparatory High School (9-12)
7. School-Within-School (PK3-5)
8. Stevens Early Learning Center (PK3-PK4)

Dual Language Programs

Whole School Programs

All enrolled students participate in the dual language program. There is no English-only option at these schools.

1. Bancroft Elementary School (PK3-5)
2. Bruce-Monroe Elementary School (PK3-5)
3. Columbia Heights Education Campus (6-8)
4. Houston Elementary School (PK3-5)
5. Oyster-Adams Bilingual School (PK4-8)
6. Powell Elementary School (PK3-5)
7. Shirley Chisholm Elementary School[16] (PK3-2 only)

Elementary Strand Programs

Elementary schools that offer a strand dual language program and a non-dual language program.

1. Cleveland Elementary School (PK3-5)
2. Marie Reed Elementary School (PK3-5)
3. Shirley Chisholm Elementary School[17] (3-5)

Secondary Dual Language Strand Programs for Students in Grades 6-12

In addition to our elementary dual language programs, DCPS offers numerous secondary dual language

[16] In SY 26-27, all 2nd grade classrooms will be bilingual arts, in SY 27-28 3rd grade will be full bilingual arts, in SY28-29 4th grade will be full bilingual arts, and in SY29-20 5th will be full bilingual arts.

[17] During 26-27 Shirley Chisholm ES elementary strand will only apply to grades 3-5 and decrease by grade level until reaching a whole school program in SY29-30

programs in which students take two or more core courses in Spanish. Students enrolling through a dual language feeder pattern have the right to enroll in the dual language programs at each school. For students entering by lottery, at Columbia Heights Education Campus (9-12) and MacFarland Middle School, there is no separate dual language program option in the My School DC lottery. Enrolled students are placed into dual language classes based on language proficiency, student interest, and scheduling availability. At Roosevelt High School, students entering the school by lottery may apply to either the dual language program or the non-dual language program, or both.

1. Columbia Heights EC (9-12)
2. MacFarland MS (6-8)
3. Roosevelt HS (9-12)

Montessori Programs

Whole School Program

All enrolled students participate in the Montessori program.

1. Capitol Hill Montessori @ Logan (PK3-8)

Strand Programs

Schools that offer a strand Montessori program and offer a non-Montessori program.

1. Langdon Elementary School (PK3-5)
2. Nalle Elementary School (PK3-5)

Dual Language Program Enrollment Policies

Language Dominance: Enrollment Policy for Grades PK3-1

Students may attend their right-to-attend school(s) for grades K-12 without applying through the My School DC lottery. To support dual language learning and to ensure access to bilingual services for students who are English Learners, DCPS dual language programs in grades PK3-1 request that lottery applicants identify as "English-dominant" or "Spanish-dominant" on their lottery application. Language dominance is defined as the primary language of communication for the applying student. After the release of lottery results and prior to enrollment, all matched students claiming Spanish-dominance may be assessed for language proficiency by the matched school site. Students who applied as Spanish dominant who do not pass the language proficiency exam will be placed on the English-dominant waitlist of all dual language schools for which they applied, not just the school in which they tested, according to their random lottery number and any other preferences for which they previously qualified. For more information on language dominance, please see https://dcps.dc.gov/DL.

Note: If the student does not meet the language requirements, they are ineligible for the Spanish-dominant waitlist at ALL DCPS dual language programs in that grade, except for grades 6-8 at CHEC's late entry program, which does not require a Spanish-proficiency assessment for entry.

Spanish Proficiency Screening: Enrollment Policy for Grades 2-12

Students may attend their right-to-attend school(s) for grades K-12 without applying through the My School DC lottery. Out-of-boundary lottery applicants who have not previously attended a Spanish dual language program in DCPS or a DC public charter school, and who are not Spanish-speaking English Learners, may be required to take a Spanish-proficiency test, unless they are enrolling in grades 6-8 at Columbia Heights Education Campus (CHEC) late entry program. Testing occurs after lottery matches are released. If the student does not pass the assessment, they will be required to forfeit their match in that school's dual language program. In these cases, at the parent's request, the applicant will be placed back on the waitlist of all schools where the student was "not waitlisted." This request must be made to My School DC by the parent and can only be made once the student has failed the Spanish-proficiency test.

Dual Language Strand Enrollment (PK3-5)

For schools that offer both a dual language strand and an English-only (or non-dual language strand) **at the elementary school grades**, all new students interested in attending the dual language strand must submit a lottery application through My School DC. Students living in-boundary to the school offering the dual language strand will receive a preference in the lottery to the dual language strand and retain the right to enroll in the in-boundary school at any time, with immediate placement into the non-dual language strand. Students currently enrolled in the English-only strand (or non-dual language strand) may apply to the dual language strand program offered at their current school, but do not receive a preference based on their current enrollment, unless they are eligible for sibling or in-boundary preferences. The enrollment policies for language dominance (PK3-1) and Spanish proficiency screening (grades 2-5) apply for all applicants to dual language strand programs.

Non-Dual Language Alternative School Placement (Sister School) (K-8 Grades)

For families of compulsory-age students in-boundary at a dual language school without an English-only program option, and where the family does not wish to participate in the dual language program, DCPS provides an alternative option for enrollment. Non-dual language alternative schools do not apply to PK3, PK4, or out-of-boundary students.

Dual Language Program (Grades Without English-Only Option)	Non-Dual Language Alternative (Grades Offered at School)
Bancroft Elementary School (K-5)	Tubman Elementary School (K-5)
Bruce-Monroe Elementary School (K-5)	Raymond Elementary School (K-5)
Columbia Heights Education Campus (6-8)	MacFarland Middle School (6-8)
Houston Elementary School (K-5)	Burrville Elementary School (K-5)
Oyster-Adams Bilingual School (K-8)	John Francis Education Campus (K-8)
Powell Elementary School (K-5)	Dorothy I. Height Elementary School (K-5)
Shirley Chisholm Elementary School[18]) (K-2 only)	Payne Elementary School[19] (K-2 only)

Student Placement Office
3535 V Street, NE Washington, DC 20018
(202) 939-2004 or student.placement@k12.dc.gov

If an in-boundary student is not Spanish proficient in grades 2-8 and the family chooses to enroll the student in the dual language program and forego the non-dual language alternative school option, the school may require the parent to acknowledge in writing that they are enrolling their child in a dual language program without the necessary Spanish language proficiency and are aware of the potential academic challenges that the student may face.

For more information on dual language, Spanish proficiency, and lottery specific questions, visit dcps.dc.gov/DL.

Montessori School Enrollment Policies

Families who are interested in DCPS Montessori programs are encouraged but not required to have previous Montessori experience. Families who are out-of-boundary or enrolling new PK students are required to apply via My School DC and receive a match or waitlist offer. Families who enroll in DCPS Montessori programs but do not have previous Montessori experience may be expected to participate in a school visit and/or interview, as determined by the school with the Montessori program.

Questions?

[18] In SY 26-27, all 2nd grade classrooms will be bilingual arts, in SY 27-28 3rd grade will be full bilingual arts, in SY28-29 4th grade will be full bilingual arts, and in SY29-20 5th will be full bilingual arts.
[19] The Non-Dual Language alternative will adjust by grade level to reflect the bilingual arts grade level changes at the Shirley Chisholm ES.

For further information or questions about enrollment at DCPS, please contact The Enrollment Team at enroll@k12.dc.gov.