DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

DCPS SELECTIVE HIGH SCHOOL APPLICATION UPDATE FOR SCHOOL YEAR 2027-2028 and 2028-2029 **November 2026**

On an annual basis, DC Public Schools (DCPS) aims to update our admissions policies and processes to ensure that all students in the district have equitable access to selective high schools/programs while maintaining a high standard for excellence. In line with our district's commitment to equity and transparency, DCPS is excited to share information on the selective high school/program admissions criteria and components which are in effect for SY26-27 and SY28-29. Apply to all the DCPS selective high schools/programs via www.myschooldc.org.

- **Exclusion of PARCC/Standardized Test Score Requirements**: DCPS will continue to not collect PARCC or other standardized test scores as part of admissions and for the foreseeable future.

- **Grades and Attendance:** All schools will collect both the final report card from the previous school year and the first report card from the current school year to provide consistency for families around required documentation. Review how GPA is calculated per the DCPS grading policy. Attendance history is reviewed at applicable selective high schools.

- **Considerations for Virtual Admissions:** All components of the admissions processes for DCPS high schools are expected to take place in person. For the most up-to-date information on each school's virtual accommodations, please visit individual school websites.

- **Recommendations:** All recommendation content and scores are confidential and will not be shared with anyone including applicants, families, and staff at the student's current school. A score of zero is given for any recommendation not received by the recommendation letter deadline and through the appropriate mechanism. Be advised that recommenders are anonymous, and recommendations, once submitted, are final and not subject to change.

DCPS remains committed to continuing to promote transparency and equity of access through expanding our outreach and engagement with middle school staff who commonly support eighth grade students with high school applications, with a focus on staff that support students with Individualized Education Plans (IEPs) and who receive English Language Learner (ELL) services.

All schools' eligibility rubrics are posted to provide clarity on how each school evaluates the required criteria. These rubrics also include information on how they weigh each criterion and how they determine student eligibility. Please review each selective high school/program's admissions process rubric on the DCPS Enrollment Website https://enrolldcps.dc.gov/node/201.

SCHOOLS	APPLICATION COMPONENTS						ADMISSIONS PROCESS (*First, the online application is reviewed. Schools then reach out regarding the next steps below*) Please visit MySchoolDC.org for more information
	REPORT CARD			ESSAY	RECOMMENDATIONS (*Submitted online through the My School DC Application*)		
	Time Period	GPA Recommendation	Attendance		#	Type	
Anacostia Early College High School	Final SY25-26 and SY26-27 First Quarter required	GPA of 2.0 or above recommended	N/A	Yes (*Administered in person*)	2	Math Teacher Counselor or Administrator	Family Interview & In-person Essay
Bard High School Early College DC	Final SY25-26 and SY26-27 First Quarter required[1]	GPA of 2.5 or above recommended	N/A	Yes (*Administered in person*)	2	English Teacher Math Teacher	Individual Interview & In-person Essay
Benjamin Banneker High School	Final SY25-26 and SY26-27 First Quarter required 2	N/A	N/A	Yes (Submitted *online through the MSDC Application and writing prompt administered in person.*)	3	English Teacher Math Teacher Counselor or Administrator	Family Interview[2]
Columbia Heights Education Campus[3]	Final SY25-26 and SY26-27 First Quarter required[4]	N/A	Attendance is reviewed in the submitted report cards	No[5]	2	English Teacher Math Teacher	Individual Interview
Duke Ellington School of the Arts	Final SY25-26 and SY26-27 First Quarter required[6]	N/A	N/A	Yes *(Submitted online via Microsoft Forms, linked in the MSDC Application)*	3	Math Teacher Art Teacher (or other) Counselor or Administrator	[7][8] Family interview
Early College Academy @ Coolidge	Final SY25-26 and SY26-27 First Quarter required[9]	GPA of 3.0 or above recommended	N/A	Yes	2	English Teacher Math Teacher	Family Interview
McKinley Technology High School	Final SY25-26 and SY26-27 First Quarter required[10]	GPA of 3.0 or above required (English, History, Math, and Science)	N/A	Yes (*Administered in person*)	2	English Teacher Math Teacher	Group Interviews & In-person Essay
Phelps Architecture, Construction, and Engineering High School	Final SY25-26 and SY26-27 First Quarter required	GPA of 2.5 or above recommended	Attendance is reviewed in the submitted report cards	Yes (*Administered in person*)	2	English Teacher Math Teacher	Individual Interview & In-person Essay
School Without Walls High School	Final SY25-26 and SY26-27 First Quarter required	GPA of 3.0 or above required; GPA of 3.5 or above recommended	N/A	Yes (*Administered in person*)	2	English Teacher Math Teacher	Family Interview & In-person Essay[11]

[1] 11th grade applicants must submit an official high school transcript in addition to the report card.
[2] 10th grade interviews will only be conducted based on the number of available seats for the upcoming school year.
[3] Students who complete the 8th grade at CHEC have the right to enroll in CHEC for 9th grade without a My School DC lottery application.
[4] 11th and 12th grade applicants must submit an official high school transcript in addition to the report card.
[5] Applicants are required to complete a student interest survey through the My School DC application.
[6] Applicants entering the 11th and 12th grade will be reviewed, so long as they are transferring from an arts school and have sufficient arts credits in a similar program as their intended course of study.

[8] Departments at Duke Ellington School of the Arts may require additional information to be provided. Please visit MySchoolDC.org for more details.
[9] Applicants entering 11th grade will be reviewed on an as needed basis. All applicants must have sufficient credits and be on track to receive a DCPS High School Diploma and to earn an associate degree.
[10] Applicants entering the 11th grade will be reviewed if the applicant has sufficient credits in a similar program of study to enter on track to meet our school's graduation requirements.
[11] 10th-12th grade interviews will only be conducted based on the number of available seats for the upcoming school year.