



DCPS SELECTIVE HIGH SCHOOL APPLICATION UPDATE FOR SCHOOL YEAR 2025-2026 and 2026-2027

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 is in effect for SY25-26 and SY26-27. Apply to all the DCPS selective high schools/programs via www.myschooldc.org.

- **Exclusion of PARCC/Standardized Test Score Requirements:** DCPS will again 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.
- **Considerations for Virtual Admissions:** Based on health guidance and family circumstances, admissions components may be conducted virtually for SY25-26 on an as needed basis and based on the circumstance. DCPS remains committed to monitoring and following health guidance. For the most up-to-date information on each schools' virtual accommodations, please visit individual school websites.
- **Recommendations:** Be advised that recommenders are anonymous and recommendations, once submitted, are final and not subject to change.

In addition to the updates above, DCPS is also 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 will again post eligibility rubrics this fall to provide clarity on how each school evaluates the required criteria. These rubrics will also include information on how they weigh each criterion and on how they determine student eligibility and can be found on the DCPS Enrollment Website <https://enrolldcps.dc.gov/node/201>.

We also want families to know about the excellent schools right in their own neighborhood focused on ensuring their child is prepared for college and career. Each DCPS eighth grade student will receive a Guide to High School College and Career Academies that will highlight Academy programming available at their in-boundary school and at DCPS high schools across the district. The Guide includes DCPS high schools with College & Career Academies, including neighborhood high schools and application schools with Academies (McKinley, Phelps, and CHEC). Find your in-boundary school: <https://enrolldcps.dc.gov/node/41>.

SCHOOLS	APPLICATION COMPONENTS						ADMISSIONS PROCESS <i>(First, the online application is reviewed. Schools then reach out regarding the next steps below)</i> Please visit MySchoolDC.org for more information
	REPORT CARD			ESSAY	RECOMMENDATIONS <i>(Submitted online through the My School DC Application)</i>		
	Time Period	GPA Recommendation	Attendance Requirement		#	Type	
Bard High School Early College DC	Final SY23-24 and SY24-25 First Quarter required ¹	GPA of 2.0 or above recommended	None	Yes <i>(Administered in person)</i>	2	English Teacher Math Teacher	Individual Interview & In-person Essay
Benjamin Banneker High School	Final SY23-24 and SY24-25 First Quarter required	None	None	Yes <i>(Submitted online through the MSDC Application and writing prompt administered in person.)</i>	3	English Teacher Math Teacher Counselor or Administrator	Family Interview
Columbia Heights Education Campus²	Final SY23-24 and SY24-25 First Quarter required ³	None	Attendance should be included on report card	No ⁴	2	English Teacher Math Teacher	Individual Interview
Duke Ellington School of the Arts	Final SY23-24 and SY24-25 First Quarter required	None	None	Yes	3	Math Teacher Art Teacher (or other) Counselor or Administrator	Audition ⁵ Family interview
Early College Academy @ Coolidge	Final SY23-24 and SY24-25 First Quarter required	GPA of 3.0 or above recommended	None	Yes	2	English Teacher Math Teacher	Family Interview
McKinley Technology High School	Final SY23-24 and SY24-25 First Quarter required	GPA of 3.0 or above required (English, History, Math, and Science)	None	Yes <i>(Administered in person)</i>	2	English Teacher Math Teacher	Group Interview & In-person Essay
Phelps Architecture, Construction, and Engineering High School	Final SY23-24 and SY25-26 First Quarter required	GPA of 2.5 or above recommended	Attendance should be included on report card	Yes <i>(Administered in person)</i>	2	Math Teacher Counselor or Administrator	Individual Interview & In-person Essay
School Without Walls High School	Final SY23-24 and SY24-25 First Quarter required	GPA of 3.0 or above required; GPA of 3.5 or above recommended	None	Yes <i>(Administered in person)</i>	2	English Teacher Math Teacher	Family Interview & In-person Essay

¹ 11th grade applicants must submit an official high school transcript in addition to the report card.

² 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.

³ 11th and 12th grade applicants must submit an official high school transcript in addition to the report card.

⁴ CHEC applicants are required to complete a student interest survey through the My School DC application.

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