

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 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:** 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 timely and through the appropriate mechanism. 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 | |
| Anacostia Early College High School | Final SY24-25 and SY25-26 First Quarter required | GPA of 2.0 or above recommended | None | Yes <i>(Administered in person)</i> | 2 | Math Teacher Counselor or Administrator | Family Interview & In-person Essay |
| Bard High School Early College DC | Final SY24-25 and SY25-26 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 SY24-25 and SY25-26 First Quarter required ² | 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 ² |
| Columbia Heights Education Campus ³ | Final SY24-25 and SY25-26 First Quarter required ⁴ | None | Attendance should be included on report card | No ⁵ | 2 | English Teacher Math Teacher | Individual Interview |
| Duke Ellington School of the Arts | Final SY24-25 and SY25-26 First Quarter required ⁶ | None | None | Yes | 3 | Math Teacher Art Teacher (or other) Counselor or Administrator | Audition ⁷ Family interview |
| Early College Academy @ Coolidge | Final SY24-25 and SY25-26 First Quarter required ⁸ | GPA of 3.0 or above recommended | None | Yes | 2 | English Teacher Math Teacher | Family Interview |
| McKinley Technology High School | Final SY24-25 and SY25-26 First Quarter required ⁹ | 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 SY24-25 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 SY24-25 and SY25-26 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 | Student Interview & In-person Essay ¹⁰ |

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.

⁷ 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.

⁸ 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 the associate degree.

⁹ 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.

¹⁰ 10th-12th grade interviews will only be conducted based on the number of available seats for the upcoming school year.