



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

OFFICE OF THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF

EDUCATION

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My School DC Releases Results of Common Lottery System for the 2019-20 School Year

More than 25,000 families with children in pre-K through 12th grade received results on March 29 of the My School DC Lottery, the District's common lottery system for DC Public Schools and nearly all public charter schools, for the 2019-20 school year.

The District is home to more than 200 public and public charter schools, serving more than 93,000 students. Unlike most school districts around the country, DC families can choose to directly enroll their students at their neighborhood school for grades kindergarten through 12, or they can elect to apply to any charter or traditional school outside their boundary.

The My School DC lottery application is a single online form families must use if they choose to apply to a charter or an out-of-boundary school. Throughout the school year, families receive support understanding the lottery and the options available through EdFest, a city-wide education fair that gives families the opportunity to learn about schools directly from school staff; the My School DC hotline; and community office hours. My School DC received 25,588 applications for the 2019-20 school year from families, a slight increase over last year.

Families are waitlisted at schools they ranked higher than where they are matched. Of the 25,588 students who applied by the deadlines, 16,683 (or 65 percent) were matched (offered a seat) at a school they applied to through the lottery. Of those matched, 57 percent were offered a seat at their top choice, and 83 percent were offered a seat at one of their top three school choices.

Students will be offered spots from waitlists over the spring and summer. Last year, 84 percent of applicants were either matched or offered a waitlist spot by the time of the official enrollment count in October.

The District launched the My School DC Lottery in 2014. Previously, families seeking to choose a school had to navigate disparate applications, timelines, and processes of many schools. Because of the highly decentralized system and different application requirements, families often struggled to navigate the complicated system and meet staggered deadlines. As the number of schools in the city rose, the

process to learn, apply, and enroll in school became more complicated and began to favor those with resources.

In an effort to simplify that process, school officials, policy leaders, and parent representatives helped design My School DC to bring improved transparency and accountability to the system. The common lottery has been a stable and continuously improving program. Today, families use the lottery to apply to charter schools and all DCPS pre-K 3 and pre-K 4 programs, out-of-boundary, citywide, and selective high schools. Families can apply and rank up to 12 schools for each child.

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