

**GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**

**Executive Office of the Mayor**

Office of the Deputy Mayor for Education



**PRESS RELEASE**

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**CONTACT:** Doxie A. McCoy (EOM) 202.727.9691; [doxie.mccoy@dc.gov](mailto:doxie.mccoy@dc.gov)  
Sujata Bhat (DME) 937.546.8300; [sujata.bhat@dc.gov](mailto:sujata.bhat@dc.gov)

## **My School DC EdFEST to Showcase Almost 200 Public Schools**

*Free Education Fair Offers Families a Look at a Variety of School Options in One Place*

(WASHINGTON, D.C.) – On Saturday, November 22<sup>nd</sup>, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., the Office of the Deputy Mayor for Education will host My School DC EdFEST 2014 at the DC Armory, featuring more than 180 DCPS and public charter school options for pre-kindergarten to 12<sup>th</sup> grade students.

EdFEST is a one-stop-shopping fair where families can talk with representatives from schools city-wide and learn how to apply for them through the My School DC application process, which opens on December 15<sup>th</sup>. Families can also take advantage of a variety of free services and activities on-site, including flu shots for adults and immunization and dental screenings for children, administered through the DC Department of Health. Sports activities will be presented by the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR), along with story time hosted by the DC Public Library (DPL).

***“Parents in the District of Columbia have numerous public school options, and the goal of My School DC, as a cross-sector partnership, is to help families navigate those options and find the best fit for their child,”*** said Mayor Vincent C. Gray. ***“EdFEST provides a unique opportunity for families to learn about what our schools have to offer, both DCPS and charter, in one place.”***

Saturday’s EdFEST also will premiere a new School Finder tool, developed by My School DC in partnership with the Office of the Chief Technology Officer (OCTO). The School Finder, available in English and Spanish at [find.myschooldc.org](http://find.myschooldc.org), allows families, for the first time, to search for their neighborhood in-boundary school while at the same time explore all the other public school options available to them. The tool allows families to search by program, location and grade, and also features information about the new school boundaries for the 2015-2016 school year and phase-in policies.

“With so many choices, it can feel overwhelming. Tools like the School Finder and events like EdFEST have all the information in one place, which is so helpful for busy parents. You can start to figure out which schools you might want to research further and visit in person at an open house,” said Ward 1 parent and My School DC Parent Advisory Council Member Susanna Montezemolo.

Admission and parking are free. Take Metro to Stadium-Armory on the Orange/Blue/Silver lines or Metrobus routes B2, D6, E32, 96 and 97.

EdFEST Sponsors include Verizon and Events DC. Media partners include DCW50, El Zol 107.9, *Washington Parent Magazine*, WETA Kids, and WPGC 95.5.

For more information on My School DC and EdFEST please visit [www.myschooldc.org](http://www.myschooldc.org). Follow us on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/myschooldc> and on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/MySchoolDC>.