

APPLYING TO HIGH SCHOOL
2027-28 SCHOOL YEAR

The District is home to over 30 public and public charter high schools (Grades 9-12). Students can apply to up to 12 high schools on the My School DC application. They also have the option of enrolling directly at their DCPS in-boundary high school, their feeder school, or applying to a school that does not participate in My School DC.

APPLY BY FEBRUARY 1, 2027

- **Set up a family account.**
  Tip for students: If you create a family account with your personal email address, make sure to include your guardian's email address in step 2 of the application.
- **Gather all of the information you need to complete your My School DC application.**
  Remember: Selective high schools and programs require additional information on the My School DC application. Be sure to allow yourself enough time to gather them prior to the February 1 application deadline. You will not be able to submit the application if you do not have all required information. Scan the QR code to find the link to selective high school requirements
- **Add the schools on your list to your My School DC application and rank them in the order you prefer.**
  The order you rank your schools lets us know the order in which you want to be matched to schools; it does not affect your chances of acceptance to a selective school nor does it affect any preferences you may qualify for such as sibling or transfer preference.
- **Submit your application by February 1.**
  You can make edits to your submitted application any time before February 1. You may update the school rankings you listed in your application until March 12 at 5 p.m.

BEFORE YOU APPLY

- **Make a list.**
  Use the **School Finder (http://find.myschooldc.org)** and search for schools by address, grade and program type (such as interscholastic sports, STEM, AP classes, and more). You can also map your potential commute to school with this tool. Note: There is no guarantee of a lottery match or wait-list offer at the schools you apply to so apply to all the schools you want to attend. You can apply to up to 12!
- **Check out the high schools' school profiles.**
  School Profiles show basic information about each school and you can view their open house schedules. Make note of grades for which they take applications, as well as past lottery data showing the number of seats made available in a grade, the waitlist length at time of results and the waitlist movement. Scan the QR code to find the link to this information.

READING ON PAPER? SCAN HERE TO FIND ALL LINKS REFERENCED

- **Look for specific school requirements**.
  Some high schools have age cutoffs. Other schools require transcript reviews of credits earned for promotion to the grade you're applying to. (For example, some schools do not give credit for classes where a "D" is earned in a class.) Work with your middle school counselor for guidance on requirements.
- **Attend EdFEST, school fairs and open houses.**
  Scan the QR code to find a list of helpful questions and ask them directly to schools you are interested in to help narrow your choices.
- **Use your networks.**
  It is helpful to talk with people you know (e.g., neighbors, friends, school counselors) who are knowledgeable about the schools you are thinking of applying to.
- **Decide your ranking.**
  You will rank your final list of schools in the order you prefer. Ranking your list in this order is important. You will only be waitlisted at the schools you rank above your matched school.

TYPES OF PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOLS

- **DCPS In-boundary Schools**: A My School DC application is **not** required.
- **DCPS and Charter Feeder Schools**: A My School DC application is **not** required. If you accept a seat at a school outside your feeder pattern, you may lose the right to that feeder pattern. Please check with your school for more information or call the My School DC Hotline at (202) 888-6336.
- **DCPS Out-of-boundary Schools**: A My School DC application is required.
- **DCPS Citywide Schools**: A My School DC application is required.
- **DCPS Selective High Schools and Programs**: A My School DC application is required. Students program must complete an additional section of the My School DC application where selective high schools may require a report card, essay, and staff recommendations. See admissions processes and criteria below.
- **Public Charter Schools**: A My School DC application is required.
- **Adult or Alternative Education Options**: There are public and public charter high schools that offer alternative programming and do not participate in the My School DC lottery program. The District also has a Re Engagement Center that offers a range of services to District youth (ages 16-24) not currently in school and who don't have a high school diploma or GED to help them reconnect to educational options and other critical services to support their attainment of a diploma or GED. Visit https://backontrack.dc.gov to learn more.

REQUIREMENTS FOR ADMISSION TO DCPS SELECTIVE HIGH SCHOOLS

Familiarize yourself with each selective high school and program's application requirements and selection criteria below. Please note, admission to a selective high school or program is based on students meeting specific criteria, not random lottery.

APPLYING TO HIGH SCHOOL (GRADES 9-12)? CONSIDER ASKING THE QUESTIONS BELOW:

- Can my child receive college credit through their classes?
- Will a counselor be able to help my child with college applications? What about military or vocational preparation?
- What extracurricular activities, special programs, and travel opportunities do you offer?