

Selective High Schools Application Update

In line with our district's commitment to equity and transparency, DC Public Schools (DCPS) embarked on a process to revise our admissions policies and processes to ensure that all students in the district have equitable access to selective high schools while maintaining a high standard for excellence. DCPS is proud to make the application process for our selective high school easier for families to understand and navigate. The changes for School Year 2020-2021 include:

- **Elimination of PARCC / standardized test score minimums.** No selective high school will require a minimum PARCC score. Four of the eight programs will collect state standardized test scores but will not require a minimum score to be considered for admission.

- **Reduction of schools with GPA minimums.** Only one school – School Without Walls High School – will require a GPA minimum. Two schools – McKinley Tech High School and Bard High School Early College (for 11th grade only) – will have a recommended, but not required, GPA minimum.

- **Elimination of attendance minimums at all schools.**

- **School Without Walls High School will offer at least one additional testing site.** To ensure that transportation access to the test is not a barrier for students, School Without Walls High School will offer at least one additional testing location option east of the river.

- **Decrease in required recommendations.** No school will request more than three recommendations. All recommendations will continue to be submitted online through a common form across schools.

- **All schools will develop and post eligibility rubrics.** Schools will develop rubrics to provide clarity for families and the public on how each school evaluates the required criteria, including narrative on the schools' focus areas and what they are looking for in student applicants. These rubrics will also include information on how they weigh each criterion and on how they determine student eligibility.

As we expand access to selective high schools, we want families to be confident that they also have excellent schools focused on ensuring their child is prepared for college and career right in their neighborhood. We will continue to work with families to implement our vision for a great school in every neighborhood at every level, complemented by high-quality citywide options.

SCHOOL	APPLICATION COMPONENTS				ADMISSIONS PROCESS**
	REPORT CARD	PARCC SCORES*	ESSAY	RECOMMENDATIONS (Completed online through the My School DC application.)	
Bard High School Early College DC	Required for 11th graders only. GPA of 2.0 or above recommended.	No	Yes (To be completed at Bard; not through the My School DC application.)	Math teacher; English teacher	Application review; Essay (on-site); Individual interview
Benjamin Banneker High School	SY19-20 First Quarter	Yes	Yes	English teacher; Math teacher; Counselor	Application review; Family interview
Columbia Heights Education Campus	SY19-20 First Quarter Attendance should be included on report card.	No	No***	Math teacher; English teacher	Application review; Individual interview
Duke Ellington School of the Arts	SY19-20 First Quarter Attendance should be included on report card.	No	Yes	Math teacher; Art teacher (or other); Counselor	Application review; Audition; Academic placement assessment; Family interview
Early College Academy @Coolidge High School	SY19-20 First Quarter	Yes	Yes (To be completed at Early College Academy @Coolidge; not through the My School DC application.)	Math teacher; English teacher	Application review; Essay (on-site); Family interview
McKinley Technology High School	Final SY18-19 and SY19-20 First Quarter GPA of 3.0 or above recommended.	Yes	Yes (To be completed at McKinley Tech; not through the My School DC application.)	English teacher; Math teacher; Counselor	Application review; Essay (on-site); Individual interview
Phelps Architecture, Construction, and Engineering High School	SY19-20 First Quarter Attendance should be included on report card.	Yes	Yes	Math teacher; English teacher	Application review; Family interview
School Without Walls High School	Final SY18-19 GPA of 3.0 or above required.	No	No	None	Application review; Admissions test; Student & Parent/ Guardian interview

* If student did not take PARCC, include other state standardized test scores on the My School DC application for schools that require them. No minimum score required to apply.

** Check MySchoolDC.org for more detailed information about schools' admissions processes.

*** Applicants are required to complete a student interest survey through the My School DC application.

