

Student Commutes Are Shorter to Highly-Rated Schools

However, students in Wards 7 and 8 still travel much farther to 4 and 5 STAR schools than their peers in other areas of the city.

In SY18-19, audited students had shorter median commutes to their 4 and 5 STAR rated schools compared to the previous year. The median commute was shorter in nearly every ward and grade band as well. However, students in Wards 7 and 8 are still traveling farther than others, even with the latest decreases, suggesting there is inequitable access to these higher-rated schools.

About the STAR Framework

The STAR Framework is part of the Office of the State Superintendent’s (OSSE) DC School Report Card, along with over 150 other data elements. Each school is given an overall star rating, with one star being the lowest and five being the highest. SY18-19 (2019 STAR) was the second year of STAR Framework ratings.

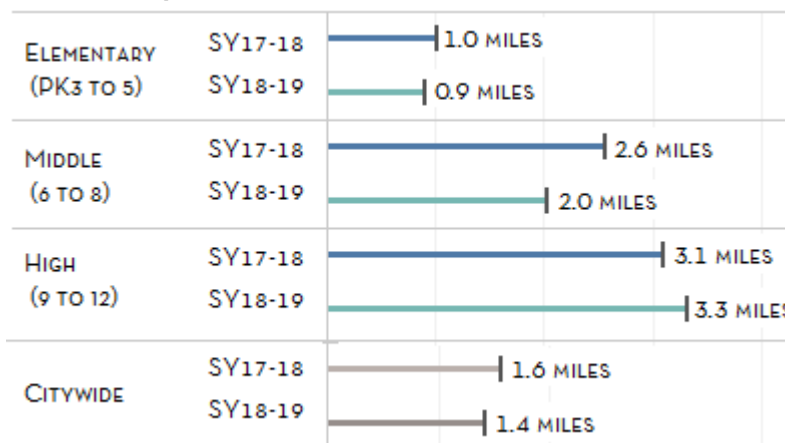
Citywide Trends in Distance to STAR

In SY18-19, there were an additional 20 highly-rated schools rated as 4 and 5 STAR and more students enrolled at these highly rated schools ([see Edsight #8](#)). The overall median commute to 4 and 5 STAR rated schools dropped from 1.6 miles in SY17-18 to 1.4 miles in SY18-19. Looking at it by separate grade bands, commutes at the elementary and middle grades decreased by 0.1 and 0.6 miles while the median high school commute increased from 3.1 miles to 3.3 miles.

Distance to STAR by Ward of Student

While students from every ward but Ward 1 had shorter commutes to the highest-rated schools in SY18-19, the distance that students traveled to their 4 or 5 STAR schools varied across the city.

Median Commute to 4 & 5 STAR Rated Schools by Grade Band, SY17-18 and 18-19



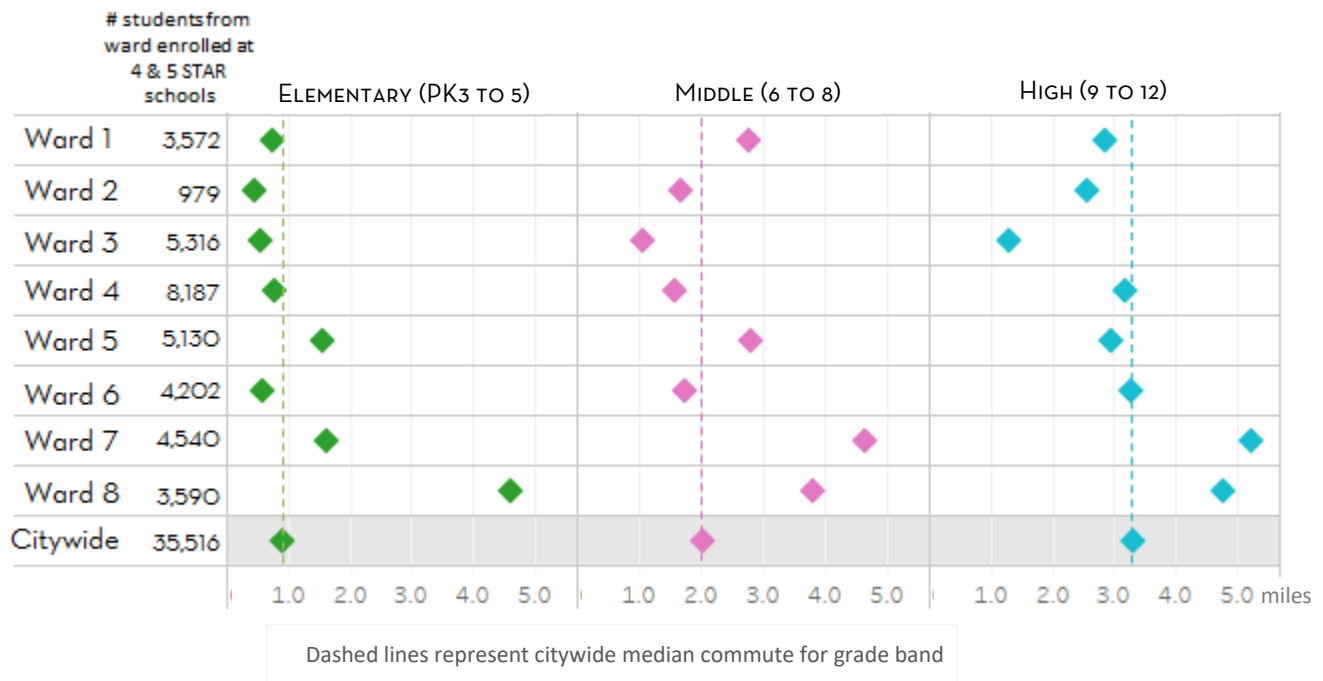
Sources: OSSE, DC School Report Card, 2018 & 2019; OSSE Audited Enrollment, SY17-18 & SY18-19

For instance, the median commute for the over 4,500 students from Ward 7 was 3.6 miles while nearly 3,600 students from Ward 8 traveled a median distance of 4.5 miles to these higher-rated schools.

In contrast, the median commute to highly-rated schools for the 27,386 students in

continued

Median Commute to 2019 4 & 5 STAR Rated Schools by Ward of Student and Grade Band, SY18-19



Sources: OSSE, DC School Report Card, 2019; OSSE Audited Enrollment, SY18-19

Notes: Excludes 148 students enrolled at 4 & 5 STAR schools who were not able to be geocoded. Distances calculated by DME using student's audited home address and the main location of their school. Grade bands are designated using Uniform Per Student Funding Formula (UPSFF) grades.

every other ward was 2 miles or less.

Ward Differences by Grade Band

Commute distances increase at each grade band (elementary to middle to high) and this tends to be true in all areas of the city and for all school STAR ratings (see EdScape [here](#) and [here](#)). At highly-rated schools, the median commute for elementary students (see green diamonds in graphic) is 0.9 miles, on par with the commute to 1, 2, and 3 STAR schools (not shown). However, the median commute for elementary students living in Ward 8 was 4.6 miles, twice as far as their peers in the rest of the city and farther than middle and high school students in nearly every other ward.

Citywide, the median commute for middle grade students was 2.0 miles. Middle school students from Wards 7 and 8 continue to

travel the farthest to higher-rated schools at 4.7 and 3.8 miles, respectively.

The citywide median commute for high school students traveling to 4 and 5 STAR rated school was 3.3 miles, while the median commute for high school students from Ward 7 was 5.2 miles and 4.8 miles for students from Ward 8.

Middle and high school students living in Ward 3 had the shortest median commutes to highly-rated schools, traveling less than 1.5 miles to 4 or 5 STAR schools.

To dig into more details about student commutes by STAR Rating visit:

[EdScape Distance to STAR](#),
[EdScape Distance Methodology](#)

For more information about STAR ratings visit: [The DC School Report Card](#)

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