



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Building DC's School Report Card

The Office of the State Superintendent of Education, working with community partners and city agencies, is building a new school report card tool. The tool will give parents and families one place where they can get the information they need about our city's public schools, both traditional and charter. Last year, we asked families from across the city to tell us what was most meaningful to know about a school, and almost 1,900 responded. Along with some federally required information, that's what you will see in the graphics in this survey.

What is the purpose of a school report card?

A school report card is a document that shows how schools are performing. It should provide you with information that you'd like to know about a school overall, and help you understand how well a school is doing or where it needs more support.

Why is the Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE) changing the school report card?

The goal of OSSE and many other education entities in DC is to have ONE report card tool for ALL schools (district and charter), in ONE place, to make it easier for parents and families to access clear information.

School report cards have historically been designed with policy makers in mind. OSSE sees this project as an opportunity to find out what parents really want from a school report card. As required under the Every Student Succeeds Act, the new report card tool will be published by December 2018.

How will feedback be gathered?

OSSE is promoting engagement opportunities beginning in April and continuing through August to help design a school report card that is helpful and user-friendly for parents and families. We are hosting and supporting feedback sessions across the city and offering an online survey to build the best report card possible. To learn more about the project and how you can host your own feedback session, visit: osse.dc.gov/designdcsreportcard

How will my feedback be used?

The feedback from these opportunities is critical to ensuring OSSE develops a school report card tool that helps parents and families make informed decisions about their children's educational future.

The findings from these sessions will help OSSE make decisions to build a tool that is as easy as possible to understand and use. In summer 2018, OSSE will publish a report that details the findings from the feedback sessions and the online survey.

Where can I go for more information?

- For more information on this project, visit www.osse.dc.gov/buildDCsreportcard
- Please consider taking our 20-minute online survey at bit.ly/reportcarddesignsurvey

What school report cards are currently available in DC?

LearnDC

- LearnDC is the federally required school report card that is developed and managed by OSSE.
- It includes information on how each public school is performing against the measures of the DC school accountability system, and provides detailed data on state test scores, student progress, graduation rates, teacher qualifications, and more.
- LearnDC also includes equity reports, which break down information by race and ethnicity.

District of Columbia Public School Profiles

- The DCPS school profile allows parents to compare up to four schools and contains two sections: the overview and the scorecard.
- The overview is written by school leaders and contains details about the school, like the programs and facilities, uniform policies, and transportation.
- Like LearnDC, the profile provides data on state test scores and student progress, disciplinary data, and student and staff satisfaction.

MySchoolDC.org

- Many parents are most familiar with the My School DC portal because it is where they enter their children into the common lottery and apply for preferred schools.
- It includes basic information about the school, including state test scores, uniform policy, transportation options and programs offered, but is more limited than the LearnDC and the DCPS school profiles.

The District of Columbia Public Charter School Board Performance Management Framework (PMF) Reports

- The District of Columbia Public Charter School Board (PCSB) annually evaluates the performance of each public charter school in DC.
- Schools are evaluated on a common set of characteristics, and each school is rated as Tier 1, 2 or 3 (with 1 being the highest performing).
- Reports include academic information, as well as demographic information and details on the school's mission and environment.

