



# GROWING HEALTHY SCHOOLS MONTH

Initiative of the Office of the State Superintendent of Education

## Calling All DC Schools: Sign Up For DC's Recycle Right! Competition

The DC Department of General Services (DGS) invites all DC schools to participate in the Recycle Right! Competition to celebrate Growing Healthy Schools Month in October. Students will conduct simple surveys to demonstrate that their school is "recycling right" in classrooms! It's easy! Here's how it works...

1. **Sign Up.** All DC schools can participate. **Sign up** your school by Sept 10, 2015.  
<http://goo.gl/forms/svOhQC6fv2>
2. **Set Up.** Pick the classrooms to be surveyed. Put classroom recycling and trash bins in place and be prepared to explain to students "correct" sorting procedures.
3. **Conduct Surveys.** Students conduct 3 simple classroom bin surveys (one per week) during the month of October. No weighing or new supplies necessary!
4. **Submit Results.** Calculate your results (using a simple worksheet, to be provided by DGS). Then submit the results to DGS!

WEEK 1: Submit results by Friday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>

WEEK 2: Submit results by Friday, October 9<sup>th</sup>

WEEK 3: Submit results by Friday, October 16<sup>th</sup>

5. **Take Action.** Share the results with your school and use them to improve your recycling "correctness" throughout the three week period.

**Awards:** Certificates will be awarded for Highest Performance (highest percentage of correct bins) and Most Improved (biggest improvement between the first and third surveys).

DGS will provide more detailed instructions and guidelines to schools that sign up by September 10!

Ready to Recycle Right? **Sign Up** by Sept 10<sup>th</sup>!

For questions, contact Beth Gingold at [beth.gingold@dc.gov](mailto:beth.gingold@dc.gov).

### What is "correct"?

Most recycling competitions reward participants for "recycling more" based on volume or weight. This sends the wrong message by discouraging waste reduction. This competition rewards participants for "recycling right" based on percentage of "correct" bins.

For DCPS, "correct" means following **DCPS Recycles!** guidance to use bins for paper only in classrooms.

For other schools, "correct" depends on the recycling program in place.



The Recycle Right! Competition is a part of the international Green Cup Recycle Challenge, a program of the Green Schools Alliance.

