ENGAGEMENT SESSION
Glossary

Building DC's School Report Card

90% or more attendance: Rate of students attending school 90% or more of the time.

Absence: When a student is not present at school, during the school day; there are two types of absences: excused and unexcused.

Advanced Coursework: Classes in any subject area that address more challenging and complex content than general courses. Two types of advanced courses offered in many schools are Advanced Placement (AP) courses, which can earn students college credit, and International Baccalaureate (IB) courses.

Attendance: The regular presence of a student at school or educational program.

Attendance Rate: The rate at which students attend school during the course of a school year.

Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS): is a tool for observing and measuring the quality of interactions among teachers and the learning environment in Pre-K classrooms.

College Admission Tests: Tests used to measure high school achievement and determine college admissions; the SAT and ACT are the most commonly used.

College Enrollment: The percentage of graduating students who are enrolled in a two or four-year college program.

DC CAS: The DC Comprehensive Assessment System was the state test used to measure student performance in grades 3-8 and 10 in language arts and math. It was replaced by the PARCC test and the DC Science test in the 2014-15 school year.

DC Public Charter Schools: Public, tuition-free schools that are open to all students, and do not have selective entrance requirements. Public charter schools are independent from DCPS (the traditional public school system). Charter schools are authorized by The DC Public Charter School Board (PCSB).

DC Public Charter School Board (DCPCSB): The independent body that oversees the 62 nonprofits that operate 115 public charter schools serving more than 39,000 students (44% of all DC public school students).

Discipline & Safety: Includes the following information about a school:

- **Expulsion:** The removal of a student from a school system for disciplinary reasons.
- **Referrals to Law Enforcement:** Disciplinary violations that require law enforcement to intervene.

- **School-Related Arrests:** The number of arrests occurring as a result of school-related incidents.
- **Suspension:** Temporary removal of a child from school for a violation of school policies or rules.
- **Violence, including harassment and bullying:** The number of violent incidents of harassment or bullying as measured by disciplinary referrals.

District of Columbia Public Schools (DCPS): is the local, traditional public school system of Washington, DC. All DCPS schools are free to DC residents.

Dual language/immersion program: A program focusing on both content and language where at least half of the instruction is taught in a second language. Students learn all core content areas (math, science, social studies, language arts, and the arts) in both English and another language.

English Language Learners (ELLs) Data: English language learners are students whose native language is not English . This data shows the percentage of ELLs who have achieved proficiency in the English language.

Enrollment: DC tracks annual school enrollment, or the number of students registered to attend each school in the District. Enrollment audit is completed through a physical headcount of all students, which determined school funding and policy development in DC.

Equity reports: A complement to the School Report Cards and are meant to make schools, parents and the larger community aware of metrics related to equity that exist across DC schools. Equity, when used in education, refers to all students receiving a high-quality education regardless of the neighborhood they live in or their demographic characteristics, such as their race, ethnicity, special education status or other factors.

Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA): The federal law that was passed in December 2015 that replaced No Child Left Behind. The goal of ESSA is to make sure that all students have the opportunity to receive a high-quality education and requires states to hold schools accountable- evaluating them the same way schools evaluate and give grades to students.
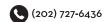
Full Academic Year (FAY) Students: A student who has attended a school or education program at least from October 5 until the state test is administered in the spring.

Gifted students: Children are gifted when their ability is significantly above average. Students can be gifted in a variety of areas, including intellectual, creative, artistic, leadership, or in a specific academic field such as language arts, mathematics or science.

Growth Percentile: Measures academic progress on the PARCC test by comparing students with similar test score history.

High School Graduation Rate: DC calculates graduation rates for each school, local education agency and at the state level. Graduation rates show the percentage of students who earned a high school diploma in both four and six years.

Higher Education: education beyond high school that includes coursework at two and four-year colleges or universities, professional and graduate programs, vocational or trade schools, and career training programs.

Highly Qualified Teacher: A teacher who has subject matter expertise and is certified in the area he or she teaches.

In-Seat Attendance: The rate at which students are present in the school building.

Local Education Agency (LEA): Any entity that operates one or more public schools.

My School DC Common Lottery: The randomized lottery that determines placement for new students at all participating schools. Student-school matches are based on the number of spaces at each school; sibling, proximity, and other lottery preferences; and how each student ranked his or her school choices.

National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP): Also known as the Nation's Report Card, it is taken by students in every state in grades 4 and 8 every other year in reading, math, science, and writing. It is also taken in grade 12 at the national level.

Office of the State Superintendent for Education (OSSE): The state education agency for DC. OSSE sets statewide policies, provides resources and support, and oversees accountability for all public education in DC. OSSE is leading the efforts in the development of a school report card tool that will help families in DC make informed education decisions for their students.
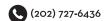
Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC): The state test that replaced the DC CAS in the 2014-15 school year. Students in grades 3-8 take the test every spring in language arts and math. High School students enrolled in Algebra 1, Geometry and English I & II also take the PARCC test. It measures students' progress towards what they need to learn by graduation to be ready for college and career.

Per-pupil expenditures: The amount of federal and state money spent per student.

Re-Enrollment: The percentage of students who re-enter the same school after leaving for voluntary reasons during a regular school year.

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State Board of Education (SBOE): The entity that provides policy leadership, support, advocacy, and oversight of public education to ensure that every student is valued and learns the skills and knowledge necessary to become informed, competent, and contributing global citizens.

School Report Cards: A tool illustrating how well a school is performing in multiple areas.

Specialized Education: Is education designed to meet the needs of students with disabilities. Specialized education programs typically provide students with additional supports and accommodations that allow them to access a specific curriculum. Students receiving special education services have an Individualized Education Plan (IEP), a plan that guides their education.

STAR Rating: The new 1-5-star rating based on outcomes of DC's state accountability system.

Student Proficiency: Students who met or exceeded the expectations on the PARCC test or DC Science test.

Students Taking Alternative Assessment: The number of students with a significant cognitive disability and are therefore, not required to take the PARCC test or the DC Science Test. Instead, they take tests known as the Multi-State Alternate Assessment (MSAA) and the DC Science Alternate Assessment (DC Science Alt).
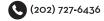
Teacher Data: Includes information on the number of teachers who are:

- **Inexperienced:** Have less than 3 years' experience teaching.
- **Teaching with an emergency or provisional credentials:** A teacher holding a Bachelor's degree in area outside of teaching who has been approved by the state to teach while pursuing his or her teacher certification.
- **Teaching outside area of certification:** Teachers are required to be certified by the state in the subject they teach. This measure shows how many teachers are teaching a different subject than the one they are certified to teach (for example, a teacher who is certified to teach Science, but is teaching a Social Studies class.)

Test Security: DC maintains Test Security Guidelines to ensure that our local educational agencies (LEAs) and school personnel are aware of the importance of maintaining strict security procedures and standardized test administration.

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