



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

OFFICE OF THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF

**EDUCATION**

## **My School DC Releases Results of Common Lottery System for the 2021-2022 School Year**

Today, the Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE) and My School DC announced lottery results for the 2021-22 school year, with a total 19,926 applicants participating in the lottery for pre-K through 12<sup>th</sup> grade public schools in the District of Columbia. Overall, 69% percent of participants were matched (offered a seat) at a school they applied to, an increase over last year's lottery match rate of 67%. Families have received their individual results for their students and will now complete the enrollment process directly with schools.

"We are pleased that even during this unprecedented year, the lottery was implemented with fidelity and My School DC was able to proactively adjust its outreach efforts to ensure families had a reliable source of information about DC schools to make important enrollment decisions for their children during this challenging and unpredictable time," said interim State Superintendent Shana Young.

Fewer applications were submitted this lottery cycle as compared to last year, representing an overall decrease of 21 percent. A drop in applications was foreseeable based on local and national enrollment trends and impacts due to the public health emergency. The largest declines were in pre-K 3 and in non-enrollment grades, indicating an interest in continuity if a student was already enrolled in a school.

Understanding this would be a challenging year for families, My School DC sought to meet families where they are, particularly DC's at-risk and non-English speaking families, and respond to the demands of the pandemic through the following outreach strategies:

- All DCPS and public charter schools that serve pre-K through 12<sup>th</sup> grade participated in My School DC's first virtual EdFEST – the annual public school fair, which exceeded the goal of 1,500 virtual attendees citywide. As is typical in the in-person event, the virtual event had accommodations to connect families to schools such as by phone and through live interpreters.
- Promotion and advertising strategies adjusted away from in-person events to include direct mail, bus shelters, and expanded phone banking efforts to call 30,000 families.
- Partners such as the DC Public Library branches and Department of Parks and Recreation's food distribution sites, as well as 30 other organizations around the District, made hardcopies of the My School DC school directory available to families they served in person.
- The My School DC Parent Advisory Council held multiple virtual parent information sessions connecting directly with parents citywide.

- Through close contact with My School DC's trusted partner network, all of whom have worked tirelessly to support families in need during the pandemic, My School DC provided direct virtual support to staff and families.
- The My School DC hotline remained open and operational without interruption Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. to support families in need.

Families can still apply to public schools by submitting a post-lottery application at [MySchoolDC.org](https://myschooldc.org). The My School DC hotline remains fully operational, Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m., to support families as they navigate their lottery results and schools' enrollment procedures, as well as with application support. The hotline can be reached at (202) 888-6336 or at [info.myschooldc@dc.gov](mailto:info.myschooldc@dc.gov). The team is equipped with bilingual staff and has access to interpreters through a telephonic interpretation service.