

DC Public Education Enrollment

10 Key Terms to Know



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Please visit our website for more useful resources and tip sheets. If you want one-on-one assistance, please feel free to call our office.

1

Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE)

the official state education agency for the District of Columbia; provides information, policy guidance, and resources on education matters to LEAs and parents

2

Local Education Agency (LEA)

an entity that operates public elementary and secondary schools; DCPS is its own LEA and each charter network is its own LEA; each LEA creates its own set of policies and oversees implementation of federal and state policies

3

DC Public Schools (DCPS)

the traditional school system in the District of Columbia; central authority is the Chancellor of DC Public Schools

4

In-boundary

a school within DCPS that a student has a right to attend ("matter-of-right") based on their address; every home address has an assigned DCPS elementary, middle, and high school

5

Out-of-boundary

a school within DCPS that is not a matter-of-right school; schools outside of a student's neighborhood boundary

6

DC Public Charter School Board (PCSB)

authorizes public charter schools in DC; after the comprehensive application process, PCSB provides oversight and support to the schools it authorizes

7

Public Charter Schools (PCS)

independent, tuition-free schools under agreements approved by PCSB; a public charter school is not a matter-of-right school to students in a given neighborhood; requires an application through the lottery

8

Lottery

a process that allows students to gain entrance to participating public charter schools, out-of-boundary DCPS, DCPS pre-k programs, and DCPS city-wide selective high schools through a random lottery process

9

MySchoolDC

administers the lottery process for participating schools; non-participating charter schools have their own lottery process; matches are based on the number of available spaces in each school

10

LearnDC

provides school level data and information on topics such as student performance, attendance, discipline, and graduation rates