

# Initial Questions and Answers for Parents Interested in the Ward 5 Great Schools Initiative

**Q. If my child attends one of these schools, does it make them more competitive when applying to an application senior high school?**

A. DCPS is committed to ensuring an outstanding education to *every* student. [The Academic Plan](#) and the Ward 5 Great Schools Initiative are both grounded in this commitment. Application high schools in DCPS consider a variety of factors in their admissions decisions. You can review their [application processes on the DCPS website](#).

**Q. The proposed new schools won't open until 2013–14. What can I expect in 2012–13 to help my middle grades child prepare for success in high school?**

A. With the recent implementation of the new, more rigorous Common Core State Standards in English/language arts and mathematics, DCPS unveiled an ambitious Academic Plan to support all students in preparing for success in college, career and life. We are already seeing great improvements in the quality and rigor of daily instruction across the district. One particularly exciting development is the creation of a district wide “scope and sequence,” a document that sets out *what* students should learn and roughly *when* they should learn it. This provides an unprecedented level of consistency across DCPS schools.

One area that is still not yet consistent enough is access in the middle grades to credit-bearing courses such as Algebra I and world languages. Currently, 70% of middle grade schools offer Algebra I and 56% offer credit-bearing world language courses. DCPS is committed to ensuring that *every* middle grade school offers students the opportunity to earn high school credits in math and world languages in SY 2012–13.

**Q. I really like this new grade configuration planned for Ward 5. It relies heavily on high enrollment - how does DCPS plan to recruit Ward 5 families back to our schools?**

A. There are a number of recruitment strategies we would implement at the school and district level to maintain the students currently enrolled in Ward 5 schools and to recruit others. The strategies would include, but are not limited to, broad marketing strategies such as using local newspaper ads, neighborhood listservs, and fliers to advertise school options and offerings. We will also utilize our school parent groups, local businesses, ANCs, feeder schools, and neighborhood canvassing to reach prospective students.

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While these efforts would be coordinated through DCPS, paramount to the success of these efforts are parents. We need YOU to support our ability to reach our stakeholders by taking action and making this plan a reality. If you live in Ward 5, it is critical that you support this initiative by enrolling your child/ren in our schools, support our ability to reach more parents, and continue to advise us on how to make these options even better for your children. We would not be successful without your help.

Lastly, we would continue to work closely with our Ward 5 Parent Advisory Group to support the development of additional strategies for an aggressive outreach and recruitment effort for our middle grades options. We would also prepare surrounding schools with these strategies to ensure they are equipped with the information necessary to integrate recruitment and outreach into their school plans. This effort will require volunteer support. If you are interested in learning more about how you can be helpful, contact [shanita.burney@dc.gov](mailto:shanita.burney@dc.gov).

**Q. What other schools in DCPS are STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math), IB (International Baccalaureate), or a 6<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade campus?**

A. Schools with a STEM focus include the following schools:

- [Beers Elementary](#)
- [Burroughs Education Campus](#)
- [Langdon Education Campus](#)
- [Langley Education Campus](#)
- [Malcolm X Elementary School](#)
- [McKinley High School](#)
- [Phelps High School](#)
- [Whittier Education Campus](#)
- [Woodson High School](#)

IB schools, including schools pursuing IB status, include the following:

Primary Years Program:

[Cooke Elementary School](#), [Shepherd Elementary School](#) and [Thomson Elementary School](#)

Middle Years Program:

[Deal Middle School](#)

Diploma Program:

[Banneker High School](#), [Eastern High School](#)

DCPS has one 6<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade campus, the [Columbia Heights Educational Campus](#).

**Q. As a community member, how can I be engaged, contribute to the Ward 5 Great Schools Initiative, and make this a sustained reality?**

A. DCPS welcomes all parents, community members, and interested district residents to be a part of the Ward 5 Great Schools Initiative. If you want to participate in the planning, provide additional feedback, or be kept in the communication loop with updates on this Initiative, please email

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[shanita.burney@dc.gov](mailto:shanita.burney@dc.gov). Most importantly, would need support as we prepare for outreach and recruitment for these Ward 5 middle grades schools.