



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
OFFICE OF INNOVATION AND IMPROVEMENT

April 6, 2009

Dear Families,

We deeply regret the confusion over whether or not your child would receive a scholarship through the D.C. Opportunity Scholarship Program. Please know that we understand and sympathize with the uncertainty that you and your family may have faced over the past few months, and we are committed to doing everything possible to help ensure that your child is in a safe school environment that offers strengthened academic programs.

The District of Columbia Public Schools (DCPS) is available to help you learn about the full range of public school options for students from pre-kindergarten through grade twelve. Many DCPS schools now feature a range of exciting programs and special classes including classes in music, foreign language, fine arts, and high tech, as well as quality after-school programming with academic and enrichment activities.


Enrollment for DCPS begins on April 1, 2009. To learn more about DCPS schools, parents can visit <http://dcps.dc.gov> or call (202) 478-5738. The Critical Response Team will be standing by to assist parents and to provide additional information about DCPS. For enrollment information and forms, parents can visit [www.k12.dc.us/enrollment/index.htm](http://www.k12.dc.us/enrollment/index.htm).


Parents also have a variety of options in the public charter school sector. Each charter school sets its own enrollment deadline and many schools are still currently accepting applications. For enrollment information on these schools, please visit the D.C. Public Charter School Board's website at <http://www.dcpubliccharter.com/pcschools/enrolldeadlines.html>. Some enrollment dates have passed, but we encourage you to contact schools directly to determine if enrollment has closed.

Finally, all parents should be informed of the status and academic performance of their child's school. For the latest performance information for all schools in the District of Columbia, please go to <http://osse.dc.gov/seo/cwp/view,a.1222,q.563412.asp>. This site provides user-friendly information at both a summary and detailed level on the achievement levels of all students on a school-by-school basis.

We hope this information is helpful and look forward to working with you so that you can make the best choices for your child for the 2009-2010 school year.

Sincerely,

  
James H. Shelton  
Assistant Deputy Secretary  
Office of Innovation and Improvement  
U.S. Department of Education

  
Victor Reinoso  
Deputy Mayor for Education  
District of Columbia