

# My School DC Overview

November 2019



# What is My School DC?

My School DC is the **common application and lottery** for 97% of public schools that serve grades PK3 – grade 12.

LEAs, including DCPS, opt-in every year to use MSDC.

It is a single **online-only** application to rank up to twelve schools, optimized for smartphones, and a hotline to support phone application



# Who needs to use My School DC?

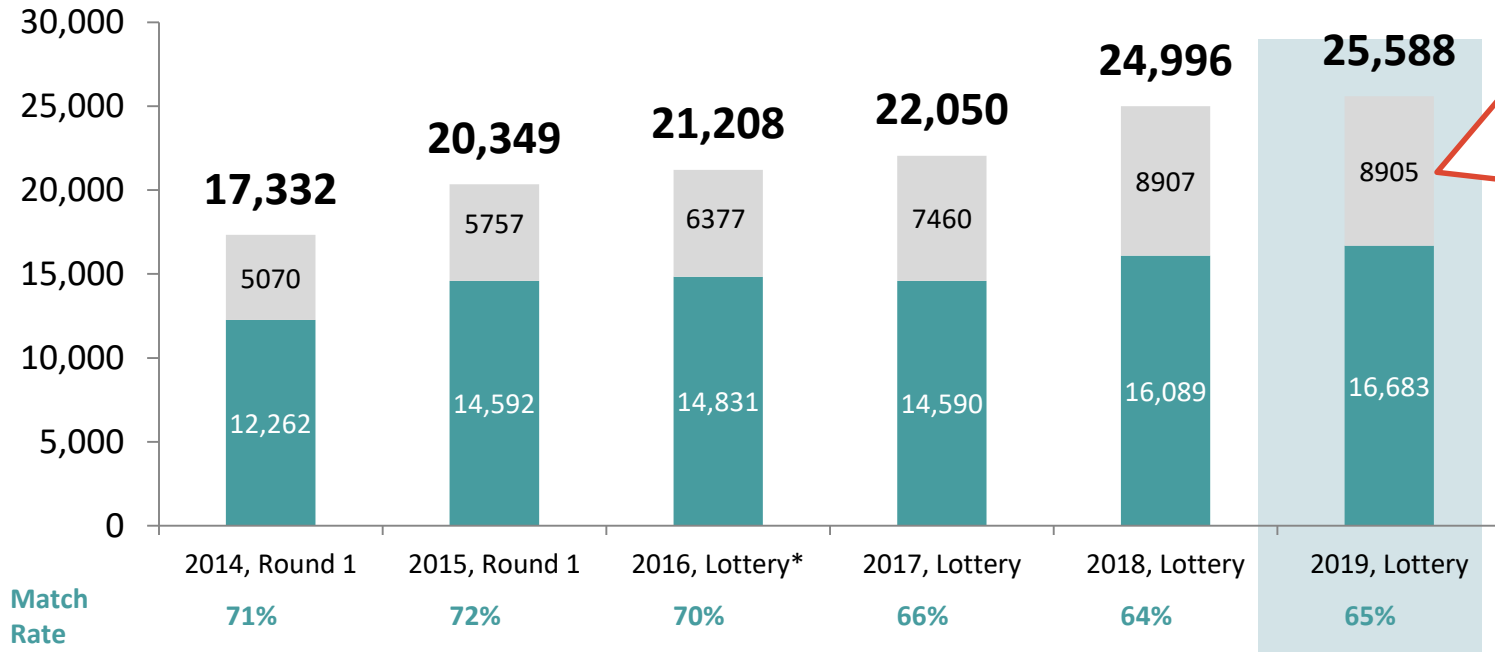
## Application is required to enter:

- PK3 or PK4 program at any DCPS school (even if it's a student's in-boundary school)
- Any participating public charter school (PK3 – grade 12)
- Any out-of-boundary or citywide DCPS school (PK3 – grade 12)
- Any DCPS selective high school (grades 9-12)

~73% of public school students in DC enroll in a school that is not their in-boundary school

# Applications & Results (2014-2019)

My School DC has seen an increase of applications each year.  
The match rate for 2019 was 65%, a slight increase from last year.

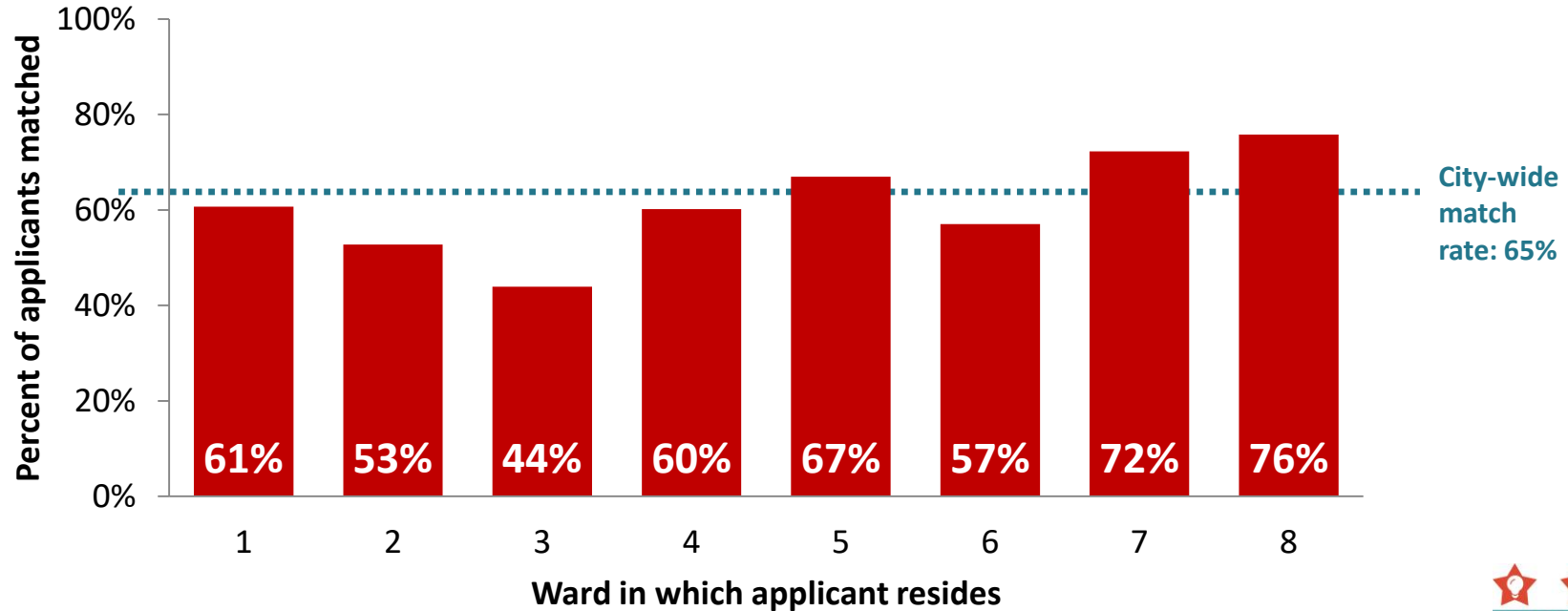


Unmatched students can expand their search, stay in current school, or go in-boundary

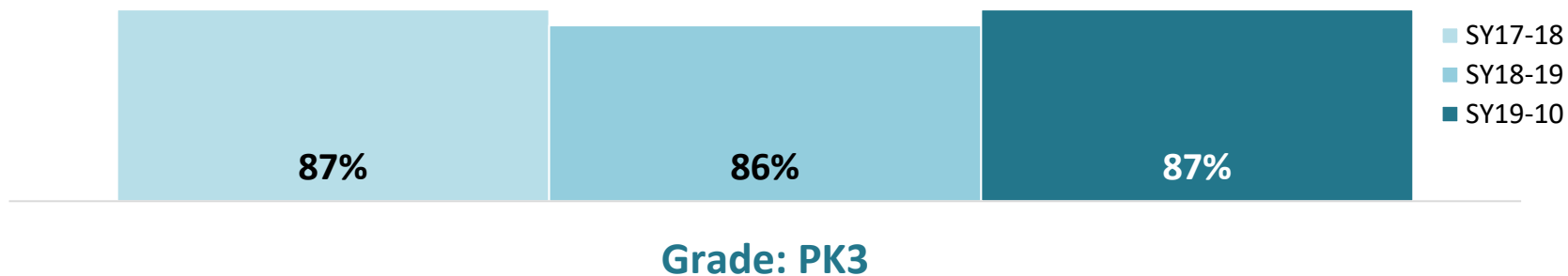
\*Beginning in 2016 there was only one lottery so no Round 1 distinction is needed.

# Match Rate by Ward of Residence

In 2019, applicants residing in Wards 7 and 8 saw the highest match rates in the lottery.



# Highest Match Rates in Entry Grade



In each of these years there were more PK3 seats available than PK3 applicants

# MSDC Outreach & Engagement

EdFEST –  
Citywide School  
Fair

Partner Training  
and Parent  
Workshops

In-Person Field  
Outreach

Paid Advertising  
(Transit, Radio,  
Digital)

Email / Text  
Alerts

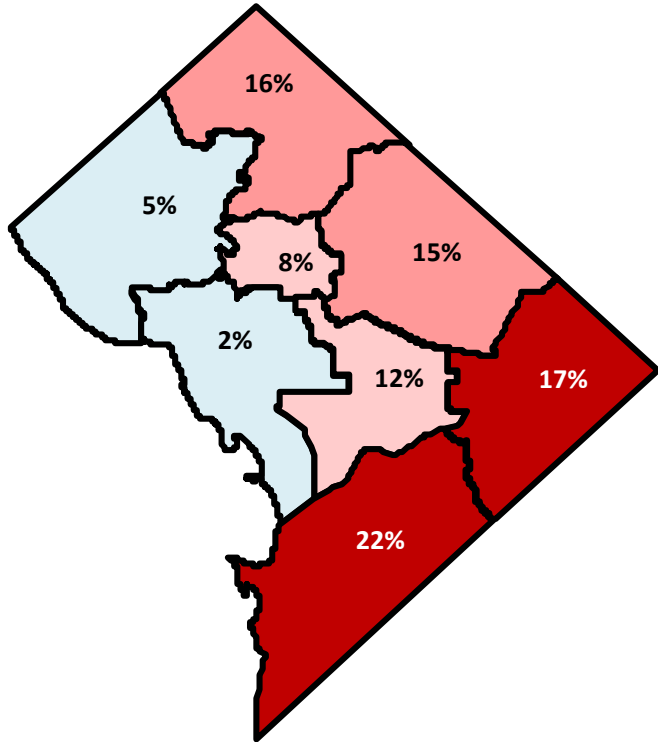
Social Media

School-based  
Outreach

1x1 Phone  
Consultations  
with Families

**Investment in  
outreach is critical for  
equity in the process  
and to meet our  
program goals for  
participation and  
deadline adherence**

# Ward Distribution: Lottery Apps (2019)



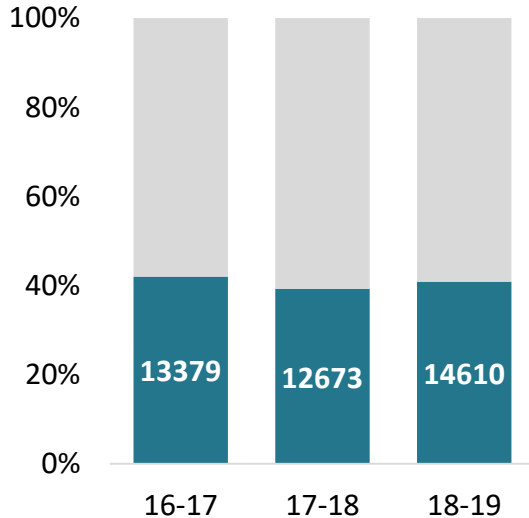
Ward	Distribution of Public School Enrollment by Ward (App %)
1	8% (8%)
2	2% (2%)
3	6% (5%)
4	16% (16%)
5	14% (15%)
6	10% (12%)
7	19% (17%)
8	24% (22%)

- App distribution mirrors public school enrollment overall
- Wards 7 and 8 have the most applicants AND the most children enrolled in public school (SY2018-2019)

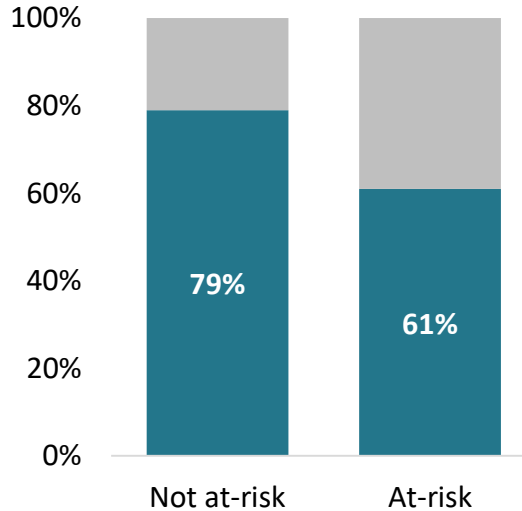


# At-Risk Applicant Patterns Overall

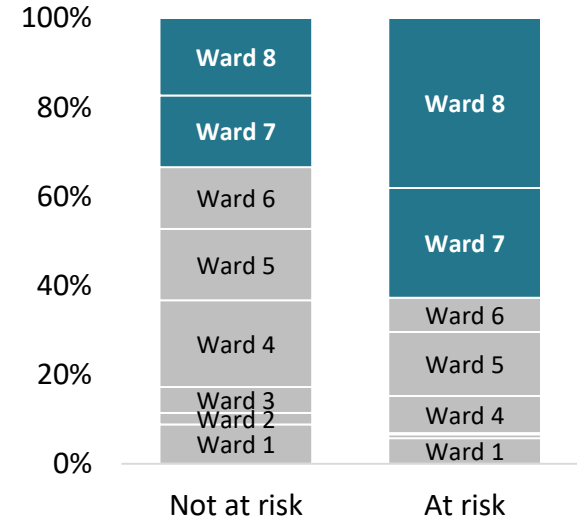
The number of at-risk applicants is increasing; overall % has remained ~40% of total applicants



At-risk applicants are less likely to apply by the lottery deadline; though the % is improving



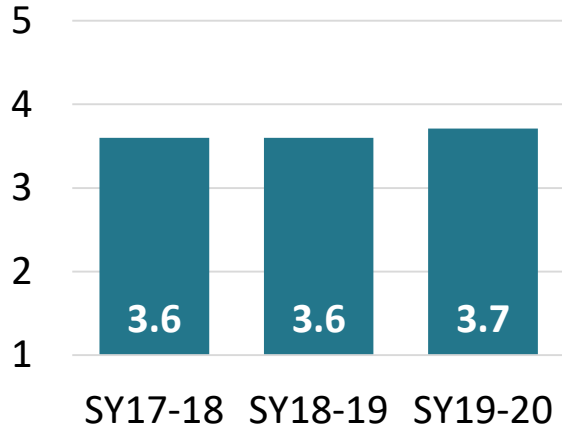
Majority of at-risk applicants are coming from Ward 7 and 8



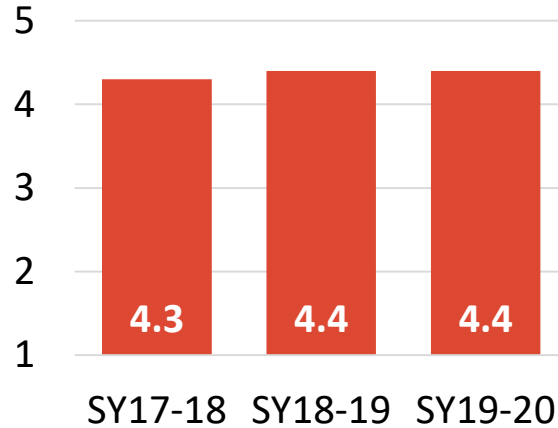
The current definition for at-risk of academic failure is based on existing proxy measures that includes students who are homeless, in the District's foster care system, qualify for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) or the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), or high school students that are one year older, or more, than the expected age for the grade in which the students are enrolled.

# Applicant Feedback

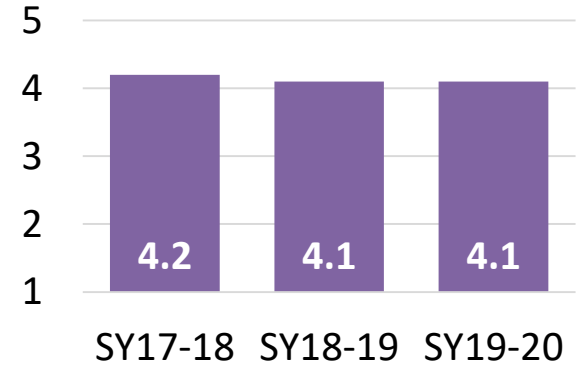
## Satisfaction with lottery results



## Satisfaction with MSDC hotline



## Satisfaction with MSDC overall



# Key Lessons Learned

- Sustained investment in outreach and navigation is a priority for equity and transparency. Schools must do it, too.
- Taking incremental implementation steps was helpful in building trust and ensuring success.
- Online only model has many benefits like a leaner staff, smooth operations, & reliable data.