



September 2015

BACK TO SCHOOL BASICS

Starting a new school year is exciting. Below is a guide to help you get answers to your most common questions during this time.

Where to start:

1. Talk to your school's parent coordinator. Call or visit your school or its website to find contact information for your parent coordinator.
2. Pick up a copy of *Achieve NYC*, your 2015-2016 guide to NYC public schools. Ask your school for a copy in your language.
3. Visit the DOE website at schools.nyc.gov or see below for information on key services.



Enrollment

You can register for elementary and middle school at your zoned school. Find your zoned school with the School Search tool at schools.nyc.gov or call **311**. From now until September 18, high school students must go to a Back to School Registration Center. After September 18, they can register at a Family Welcome Center. For complete information by grade or program and to learn about required documentation, visit the Choices and Enrollment page at schools.nyc.gov/ChoicesEnrollment or call **718-935-3500**.



School Meals

All students are offered a delicious and nutritious Breakfast and Lunch in school.

Breakfast is free for all students.

Please complete the School Meals Application at NYC.ApplyForLunch.com or at your school.

Find out what's for lunch today at SchoolFoodnyc.org.



Transportation

If your child has an Individualized Education Program (IEP) mandating yellow bus transportation, or to change your child's transportation arrangements, contact your school's transportation coordinator. Your child may qualify for a full-fare or half-fare MetroCard. For complete information on transportation call **718-392-8855** or visit schools.nyc.gov/Offices/Transportation.



Special Education

Students with IEPs can go to the same schools they would attend if they did not have IEPs in most cases. Students with IEPs are taught alongside students without disabilities, to the greatest extent possible and are provided the same general education curriculum. For more information about special education, speak with your child's teacher, principal or parent coordinator, or visit schools.nyc.gov/SpecialEducation.

I Have a Concern at My Child's School.

Who should I speak with?

Teacher

Parent Coordinator

Principal or Assistant Principal

Family Support Coordinator

Superintendent



Translation and Interpretation Services

We speak your language! Schools can provide families with free interpretation and translation services. Contact your school's principal or parent coordinator if you need assistance. For questions or feedback about language services, call **718-935-2013** or visit schools.nyc.gov/Offices/Translation.

For sign language interpreting services, contact your parent coordinator or call **212-802-1500**, ext. 7181.



English Language Learners

Families of English Language Learners (ELLs) can select from one of three programs: Dual Language, Transitional Bilingual Education, and English as a New Language (ENL). For more information, visit schools.nyc.gov/Academics/ELL/FamilyResources, call **212-323-9559**, or email ELLFamilies@schools.nyc.gov.



Health Services

Schools can provide care, services and accommodation for students with special health needs, including taking medication at school. If your child requires special services, you will need to complete a health form available at your school or at schools.nyc.gov/Offices/Health/SchoolHealthForms.

School-Based Mental Health programs serve NYC schools in all five boroughs to eliminate barriers to academic achievement. All services are private and kept confidential from the school staff. Learn more and find program locations at schools.nyc.gov/Offices/Health/SBHC/MentalHealth.



Tracking Your Child's Progress

Find information about your child's academic progress by registering for the new NYC Schools Account at MyStudent.nyc. If you need more assistance with navigating your account, contact your child's school, your superintendent or call **311**.



Family Support

Family Support Coordinators are the new dedicated point of contact for families in the district, and will work across the system to address family inquiries and concerns that cannot be resolved at the school level. Find your Family Support Coordinator at schools.nyc.gov/AboutUs/schools/superintendents/default.htm.



School Calendar

Your source for knowing important dates of the school year is at schools.nyc.gov/Calendar.

For more information

- ▶ For the latest news about the City's schools, visit schools.nyc.gov.
- ▶ You can receive regular email alerts by signing up at schools.nyc.gov/Subscribe.
- ▶ If you have additional school-related questions, call 311.