

## Parents' Guide to Quality Reviews 2008-09

Quality Reviews measure how well schools and classrooms operate to improve student achievement. During Quality Reviews, experienced educators observe classrooms and talk with principals, teachers, students, and parents.

Not every aspect of school quality can be summarized by its test scores. That's why it's vital that trained, experienced educators visit schools and see firsthand how children are being supported in the classroom. Quality Review results are summarized in a report that highlights exemplary work and identifies areas where improvement is possible, including specific suggestions for improvement. The Quality Review focuses on five measures:

- To what extent schools know how each student is performing.
- How schools plan and set goals to improve each student's academic achievement.
- How well schools provide instruction to meet the needs of all students.
- Whether schools plan professional development for school staff and student support services to meet their goals.
- How well schools monitor each student's progress throughout the year, making changes needed to help them improve.

### Important changes to Quality Reviews

In order to make the Quality Review process as efficient as possible, there will be important changes to Quality Reviews starting in the 2008-09 school year.

1. We're increasing the amount of time we spend in schools, and devoting additional time to observing classroom instruction.
2. We're training DOE personnel to conduct reviews themselves, so that more reviews can be conducted in-house.
3. During the 2007-08 school year, all schools were reviewed annually. This year, schools will be reviewed annually except:
  - a. Schools that earned a "Proficient" or better on their previous Quality Review and a "B" or better on their Progress Report. These schools will be reviewed every two or three years.
  - b. New schools. These schools will be reviewed in their second year.
  - c. Schools with new principals. These schools will be reviewed the year of the leadership change.

### How to get involved in your school's Quality Review

Parents have a vital and unique perspective about how their school is serving its students. To learn how you can get involved in your school's Quality Review, talk to your principal or e-mail us at [QualityReview@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:QualityReview@schools.nyc.gov). For more information, please visit [www.nyc.gov/schools/Accountability/SchoolReports/QualityReviews](http://www.nyc.gov/schools/Accountability/SchoolReports/QualityReviews).

### How to access your school's Quality Review Report

To view reports online, please follow these steps:

1. Go to the New York City Department of Education Web site at [www.nyc.gov/schools](http://www.nyc.gov/schools)
2. Enter the school code or school name in the green section in the middle of the page where it says "FIND A SCHOOL." This will bring you to the school's Web page
3. Click on "Statistics," which is a link on the left side of the page

Click on the Quality Review Report and it will pop up. (You must have the free program Adobe Acrobat on your computer to view the report.)