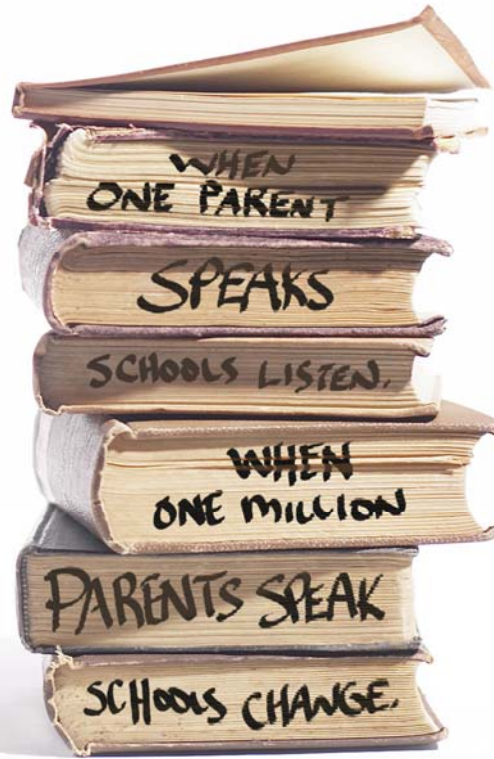


What do you think about your child's school?

Fill out a survey this spring.



Department of Education
Michael R. Bloomberg, Mayor | Joel I. Klein, Chancellor
www.nyc.gov/schools or call 311



Michael R. Bloomberg, Mayor
Joel I. Klein, Chancellor

Accountability: What Does it Mean For Your Family?

The Department of Education Will Give Families:

✓ MORE USEFUL INFORMATION

- **School Reports:** Starting in September 2007, you will receive a "Progress Report" on your child's school. The school will get a grade of A, B, C, D, or F based on student performance and progress, attendance, and results of parent, teacher, and student surveys.
- **Reports on your child's progress:** Starting next year, regular reports will be available showing your child's progress in literacy and math. Science and social studies will be added later.
- **Quality Review Reports:** Starting this year, you can find out if your school is set up to help students learn. Experienced educators are observing classrooms and talking to the principal, teachers, parents, and students at each school. Their 5-10 page reports on each school are available to all parents after the review is completed.

✓ THE CHANCE TO EVALUATE YOUR CHILD'S SCHOOL

- **Surveys:** Soon you will be able to tell the Department of Education what you think about your school by filling out a parent survey. We will also survey teachers and middle and high school students to find out how well schools are serving all members of their communities.
- **Participate in a Quality Review:** You can volunteer to tell an experienced educator about your child's school during the Quality Review that takes place each year. Contact your school to volunteer.

It's your turn to be heard:

FILL OUT A SURVEY ABOUT YOUR SCHOOL

(Learn more inside)

Look for the surveys on April 30, 2007

How are schools graded on their Progress Reports?

Progress Reports will grade each school with an A, B, C, D, or F beginning September 2007. Schools that get As and Bs will be eligible for rewards. Schools that get low grades will face consequences.

School grades are based on three things:

- **School Environment**—This includes attendance and the results of parent, student, and teacher surveys.
- **Student Performance**—This measures elementary and middle school students' scores each year on the NY State test in English Language Arts and Mathematics. For high schools, it measures diplomas and graduation rates.
- **Student Progress**—Schools are evaluated based on how much progress their students make on average during the school year in subjects such as reading, writing, math, science, and history. Special attention is given to students who are not performing well at the start of the year, as well as English Language Learners and special education students.

Progress Reports available online and in print for all schools	Sept. 2007
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What is a Quality Review?

Quality Reviews are 2-3 day visits to each New York City public school by experienced educators who talk to parents, students and staff, observe classrooms, and review how schools use information and set goals to improve learning for all students.

Quality Review Reports describe:

- How familiar teachers and principals are with every student's performance.
- How well the school plans and sets goals for improving each child's learning.
- How well the school works to meet the learning goals it sets for its students.
- How well the school tracks each student's progress throughout the year and makes changes to ensure that all students improve.

Schools receive an overall Quality Score, which is reported on the Progress Report. A 5-10 page Quality Review Report is available to all parents online at www.nyc.gov/schools.

Quality Review Reports available online	2006-07 school year
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What are Periodic Assessments?

Periodic Assessments are diagnostic tools that educators use every few months during the school year to gather information about student learning needs and how much progress students make.

Schools choose Periodic Assessments that are most relevant for their students' learning needs.

Periodic Assessments also help parents keep track of their child's progress.

Periodic Assessments:

- Identify a student's strengths and needs on a timely basis.
- Help teachers create their own assessments focused on the needs of individual students.
- Show growth in student learning within and across school years and indicate potential student performance on NY State tests.
- Measure a student's progress in English and Spanish language proficiency and indicate potential performance on NY State English Language Learner tests.
- Address the needs of students, including Special Education students, who are two years or more below grade level.

Periodic Assessments available to schools and parents	2007-08 school year
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What is ARIS?

ARIS (Achievement Reporting and Innovation System) is a modern computer system that allows parents and educators to see in one place all important information on each student's learning.

ARIS will show families:

- Their child's performance on NY State tests.
- Their child's performance on in-class periodic assessments.
- Their child's progress from kindergarten through the 12th grade.

ARIS will let educators:

- Track how much each student is learning and identify needs.
- Monitor how well teachers are teaching.
- Share information about what works and learn from each other about how to improve instruction for all students.

Teachers and principals will have online access to ARIS system	Sept. 2007
Parents will receive printed updates about their children and schools	2007-08
Parents and schools will have online access to ARIS system	Sept. 2008

Parent, Teacher, and Student Surveys are Coming Soon!

Why? The best way for the DOE to get information about a school's performance and learning environment is to ask the people who know the school best. So, we're asking all parents, teachers, and students to fill out surveys about their schools and tell us how well they think their school is improving student progress and outcomes. The results will be part of each school's Progress Report grades.

Students and Teachers: You will fill out your surveys at school.

Parents: If your child is in elementary school, look for the survey in your child's backpack. If your child is in middle or high school, we will mail you your survey. All parents can mail in completed surveys (postage prepaid) or fill them out online. Find more information at www.nyc.gov/schools or by calling 311.

Spreading the Word: Information about the surveys is coming your way through letters sent home in students' backpacks, direct mail, e-mail, and advertising. Parents' voices are critical to the success of our schools, so please fill out a survey to let school leaders know what you think, and encourage other parents to fill out surveys as well.