

# Quick Guide to New York City Public Schools



## September 2016 Welcome BACK TO SCHOOL BASICS

**S**tarting 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 your parent coordinator's contact information.
2. Pick up a copy of *Achieve NYC*, your 2016-2017 guide to NYC public schools. Ask your school for a copy in your preferred language.
3. Visit the DOE website ([schools.nyc.gov](http://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](http://schools.nyc.gov) or call **311**.

From now until September 18, high school students that need to register 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](http://schools.nyc.gov/ChoicesEnrollment) or call **718-935-3500**.



### School Meals

All students can obtain delicious and nutritious breakfast and lunch in school.

Breakfast is free for all students, and roughly 80% of DOE students are eligible for free lunch.

To qualify for free lunch, families must complete a paper or online School Meals application. Request a paper application from your school, or complete an online application at [nyc.applyforlunch.com](http://nyc.applyforlunch.com).

Find out what is available for lunch every day at [schoolfoodnyc.org](http://schoolfoodnyc.org).



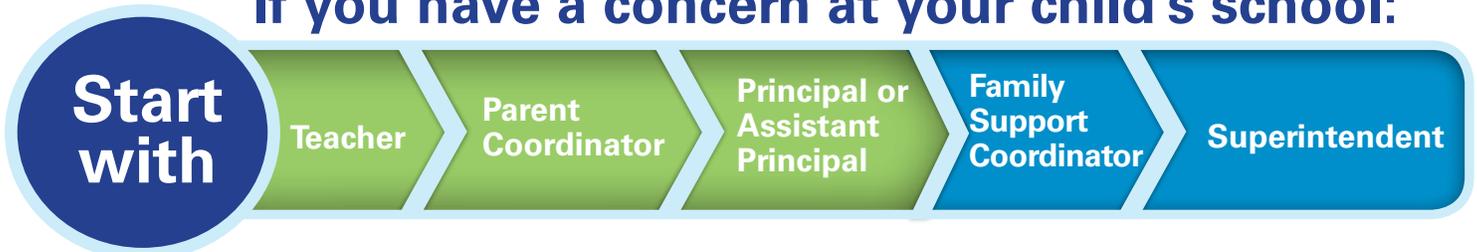
### Transportation

City students may qualify for either Yellow Bus Service (where available) or a half or full-fare MetroCard. Eligibility is based on a student's grade level and travel distance between home and school.

Students with special needs can receive Yellow Bus Service if their Individualized Education Programs (IEP) mandate bus transportation services.

For more information, contact your school's transportation coordinator, call **718-392-8855**, or visit [schools.nyc.gov/Offices/Transportation](http://schools.nyc.gov/Offices/Transportation).

## If you have a concern at your child's school:



### Special Education

In most cases, students with IEPs can go to the same schools they would attend if they did not have IEPs. To the greatest extent possible, students with IEPs are taught alongside students without disabilities and are provided the same lessons. For more information about special education, speak with your child's teacher, principal, counselor, or parent coordinator, or visit [schools.nyc.gov/SpecialEducation](http://schools.nyc.gov/SpecialEducation).



### Translation and Interpretation Services

We speak your language! Schools can provide families with free interpretation and translation services. Ask your parent coordinator, language access coordinator, or principal if you need help in your language. For questions or feedback about language services, call **718-935-2013** or visit [schools.nyc.gov/Offices/Translation](http://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 can select from one of three programs: Dual Language, Transitional Bilingual Education, and English as a New Language. For more information, visit [schools.nyc.gov/Academics/ELL/FamilyResources](http://schools.nyc.gov/Academics/ELL/FamilyResources), call **212-323-9559**, or email [ELLFamilies@schools.nyc.gov](mailto: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](http://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 confidential. To learn more, visit [schools.nyc.gov/Offices/Health/SBHC/MentalHealth](http://schools.nyc.gov/Offices/Health/SBHC/MentalHealth).



### Tracking Your Child's Progress

Find information about your child's academic progress by registering for an NYC Schools Account at [MyStudent.nyc](http://MyStudent.nyc). If you need assistance with navigating your account, contact your child's school, your superintendent or call **311**.



### Family Support

Family Support Coordinators (FSCs) are the point of contact for families who would like to address issues and concerns that cannot be resolved at their children's schools. Find your FSC at [schools.nyc.gov/AboutUs/schools/superintendents](http://schools.nyc.gov/AboutUs/schools/superintendents).



### School Calendar

Your source for knowing important dates of the school year is at [schools.nyc.gov/Calendar](http://schools.nyc.gov/Calendar).

## For more information

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