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Guide to NYC Public Schools

A Grade-Specific
Handbook for
Supporting Your
Child's Education



**Department of
Education**

Dennis M. Walcott, Chancellor

Great Schools Start with Great Expectations

Families play a vital role in students' educational journeys. By staying involved in your child's education and exploring future pathways together, you can help your child reach his or her full potential.

Learning standards describe what students should know and be able to do in each grade. In this guide, you will find examples of what eighth grade students should know and be able to do by the end of the school year in language arts, mathematics, social studies, and science. You will also find ways you can support learning as a family, including things you can do at home, in your neighborhood, and around our great City.

For our students to succeed in a rapidly changing world, they need to learn to think creatively, solve problems, make effective arguments, and engage in debates. Over the next few years, New York and more than 40 other states will begin to transition to a new set of learning standards designed to prepare all students, from prekindergarten through grade 12, for success in college and careers. Over time, teachers will integrate these new standards, called the Common Core, into their classrooms.

The Common Core standards provide us with a powerful opportunity to develop students' critical thinking skills and push them to become lifelong learners. This year, as our schools continue to work to ensure all students achieve at high levels, students will also get the chance to engage in these new, higher standards through reading and analyzing nonfiction texts and using math to solve complex, real-world problems.

To learn more about the Common Core in New York City schools, ask your child's teacher or visit our Common Core Library at schools.nyc.gov/Academics/CommonCoreLibrary/FamilyResources. To learn more about the Common Core standards nationally, visit www.corestandards.org.

Good Study Habits

To help your children develop good study habits:

- ❑ Set up a comfortable location at home for doing homework with simple supplies, such as pens, pencils, paper, scissors, and tape, near at hand.
- ❑ Have them write down and organize assignments each day. They need to learn how to manage their time and work toward long-range goals.
- ❑ Encourage them to do the most difficult homework first, not last.
- ❑ Check to see that assignments are complete and on time. Be as concerned with the process they use to complete work as with getting a right answer.

For other ideas, visit schools.nyc.gov/Academics.



Sign up for regular e-mail alerts about New York City schools at schools.nyc.gov/Subscribe.

Ask Your Child's Teacher



Learning standards provide a great opportunity for you to talk with teachers about what your child is learning in school and how you can support this learning at home. Here are some questions you may want to ask.

To learn more about a standard:

- Can you show me examples of student work that meets this standard?
- May I look at some of my child's work related to this standard?
- When will my child work on this standard during the school year?
- What activities and materials are you using in school to help my child meet and exceed this standard? What classwork and homework do you expect to assign?
- What are some exercises I can do with my child to help him or her with this standard?
- Besides the standards covered in this guide, what else is my child expected to learn this year?

To learn how your child is doing in school:

- In what subjects is my child working at grade level? Are there any areas that need improvement?
- Is my child reading at grade level in English and/or the native language? Can you show me some books that my child can read?
- How much time each day does my child spend working on each subject area?
- How do you assess my child on these subjects during the year?

To learn how to support your child:

- Besides report cards, what are the best ways to keep up to date on how my child is doing?
- If your child is not on grade level: What support is the school able to offer my child? What can I do at home to help my child do better in school?
- If your child is on grade level or above: What extra enrichment and support do you suggest for my child? How can I help at home?

Language Arts

By the end of the school year, all students should be able to:

- Question a writer’s beliefs, intentions, assumptions, and biases to decide whether information is valid and accurate.
- Recognize different types of language that friends and associates use to communicate. For example, they should recognize jargon (technical terms, teen slang, or other kinds of words that mean something to a specific group or profession but not to outsiders) and colloquialisms (informal, everyday language).
- Know and use the conventions of debate, panel discussion, mock trial, and other formats for presenting information.
- Write essays of three or more pages that compare and contrast elements, such as characters, setting, mood, and voice, in two or more literary texts (novels, plays, etc.).
- Read and understand at least 25 books, including at least four books about one subject or by the same author or in one genre of literature.
- Ask and respond to questions to clarify an interpretation of a literary text or performance.
- Recognize persuasive techniques in presentations, such as emotional and ethical appeals.
- Demonstrate comprehension of a topic by exploring it through different literary activities, such as writing, drama, oral presentation, and mixed-media performance.
- Recognize at sight a large body of high-frequency words and words related to specific content. For example, recognize words related to science, economics, sports, or computer games.
- Read silently and aloud from a variety of genres.



Learning at Home

Your family can do these activities in your native language as well as in English.

Encourage your child to submit original poems, plays, or short stories for publication in an anthology of teen writing, like the Alliance for Young Artists and Writers at artandwriting.org.

Encourage your child to spell words correctly—on paper as well as in e-mail communications. Keep a dictionary at home or check spelling online at m-w.com.

Choose a current local story or issue and challenge your child to compare its treatment by different New York publications, such as *The New York Times*, nytimes.com; the *New York Daily News*, nydailynews.com; and *New York Post*, nypost.com.

Make family discussions a priority. Even if you’re always on the go, dedicate a time, like Sunday dinner, when you all sit down together and have a real conversation. Encourage everyone to contribute.

Mathematics



By the end of the school year, all students should be able to:

- Read, write, and identify percents less than 1 percent (such as $\frac{1}{2}$ of a percent, or 0.005) and more than 100 percent (such as 230 percent, or 2.30).
- Solve problems that involve percents. For example, compute sales tax, simple interest, sale price, commissions, or tips.
- Identify different pairs of angles: vertical angles (angles that are opposite each other where two lines intersect), supplementary angles (two angles that total 180 degrees), and complementary angles (two angles that total 90 degrees or a right angle).
- Identify the angle pairs that occur when two parallel lines are intersected by a third line.
- Determine the slope of a line—the steepness of a line on a graph, defined by the ratio of changes in vertical and horizontal distances between two points.
- Solve equations and proportions to convert customary measurements to their metric equivalents. For example, 2 miles \times 1.6 kilometers/mile = 3.2 kilometers.
- Convert temperatures from Fahrenheit to Celsius and vice versa, $C = \frac{5}{9}(F - 32)$.
- Add and subtract polynomials (expressions that contain one or more variables, such as x and y , and constants, such as whole numbers) and use only addition, subtraction, multiplication, and constant positive whole number exponents. For example, $2x^2 + 3x + 4$ is a polynomial.
- Factor algebraic expressions. For example: $x^2 + 3x + 2 = (x + 2)(x + 1)$.
- Use mathematics to show and understand physical phenomena (such as constructing a scale model of your home), social phenomena (such as creating a budget for a summer vacation), and mathematical phenomena (such as graphing algebraic equations and then describing and contrasting the graph lines).

Learning at Home

Help your child make smart money choices. Talk about budgeting, planning how to spend limited resources, earning money, and strategies for saving for future wants and needs. Talk about the cost of credit and how tools like a checking account and a credit card can be both helpful and costly.

Mathworld Classroom offers clear definitions and demonstrations of concepts in pre-algebra, algebra, geometry, and other math disciplines on the Web at mathworld.wolfram.com/classroom.

Remind your child of all the jobs that involve mathematics—including more obvious careers, such as accountant and rocket scientist, as well as not-so-obvious choices, such as psychologist and racehorse trainer. Help your child find opportunities to explore those interests.

The New York Public Library's Web site has great math and science games and activities at kids.nypl.org/science/math.cfm, including homework help and Q&As on middle school math concepts and problems.

Science

Science in eighth grade explores reproduction, heredity, and evolution; humans in their environment; the earth, sun, and moon system; and forces and motion on earth.

By the end of the school year, all students should be able to:

- Understand that in all organisms, genetic traits are passed on from generation to generation.
- Compare and contrast sexual reproduction (reproduction with two parents) and asexual reproduction (which requires only one parent).
- Understand the elements of heredity, including DNA (the material in a cell that carries genetic instructions), genes (pieces of DNA with instructions for a specific trait, such as red hair), and mutations (changes in traits that occur when DNA is damaged or altered).
- Understand natural resources and energy, including the energy needs of a nation, region, or family; renewable sources of energy, such as solar energy; and nonrenewable energy sources, such as coal or oil.
- Understand environmental concerns, such as how to dispose of trash and other waste; how best to use land in our growing cities; air and water pollution; and global warming.
- Understand the connection between nutrition and health, including the effects of environmental toxins, such as chemicals that get into the food chain; food-borne illness, such as salmonella; and system failures, such as heart disease or diabetes.
- Classify celestial objects, such as stars, planets, comets, moons, and asteroids.
- Understand Newton's Second and Third Laws: An object acted on by a net force will accelerate in the direction of this force; and for every action there is an equal and opposite reaction.
- Determine an object's speed and acceleration (rate at which it gains speed).
- Identify cause-and-effect relationships.

Learning at Home

Talk regularly about science news covered in the media. How might a new breakthrough affect your lives? What can your child do to benefit or learn from this breakthrough?

Encourage your child to get involved in conservation in your neighborhood. Visit the New York State Department of Conservation's Web site, www.dec.ny.gov, for a comprehensive guide to events all over the State, including resources and programs for teachers and students.

With your child, visit the Hayden Planetarium at the American Museum of Natural History, amnh.org/rose; locate images of space at nasa.gov; or find books on astronomy at your local library.



Learning at Home

Talk with your child about the **career opportunities** that are open to young people today. How are they different from what was available when you were their age? Talk with your child about the skills needed to get a good job today.

Together, investigate the **New York Public Library's Web site** for New York City history at kids.nypl.org/newyork/newyorkhistory.cfm. Talk about how each borough grew and changed in the industrial age.

Explore the development of **New York City's famous subway system** at nycsubway.org. Together, consider how a subway or other rapid transit system contributes to the economic growth of a city. Also use the site to learn about the art in our stations.

Encourage your child to talk with a **relative or family friend who participated in one of our country's wars**. Record the conversation and submit it to the Library of Congress's Veterans History Project at loc.gov/vets.



Social Studies

In eighth grade social studies, students explore the history of the United States and New York State from the Industrial Era to the present.

By the end of the school year, all students should be able to:

- Analyze the causes and effects of the various waves of immigration to the United States, public policies regarding immigration, and the contributions of immigrants.
- Use diverse sources to seek multiple perspectives. For example, did all residents believe the United States should enter World War I or II?
- Examine and debate the advantages and disadvantages of the Industrial Revolution.
- Understand the changes to America's workforce as the nation became more industrialized. For example, explain the changes in the number of farm workers during the early years of the 20th century compared to the number of factory workers.
- Explain the reasons for African-American migration from the southern to the northern United States in the first half of the 20th century.
- Investigate the factors that helped the United States become a world economic power between World War I and World War II.
- Compare the different economic climates that existed in the United States during the 1920s and the 1930s—for example, the end of the wartime economy of World War I, the growth of the industrial economy and factories, and the development of science and technology.
- Discuss how scarce resources during the Great Depression, World War II, and other periods affected life in the United States.
- Know and appreciate the contributions of famous leaders of the women's rights and Civil Rights movements, such as Susan B. Anthony, Sojourner Truth, Martin Luther King, Jr., and Rosa Parks.

More Essential Knowledge and Skills

Our eighth grade students are learning much more than to read, write, do math, and understand key concepts in science and social studies.

- **Arts:** Eighth grade students complete one semester each of two art forms, such as visual arts, dance, music, and theater. They build skills and techniques in the art form; create original works; master the vocabulary and related literature; research the history; and use arts institutions as resources for potential careers and for advanced learning in these fields.
- **Fitness and Health:** Students continue to improve their personal health and well-being, the health of their families and friends, and the health of their schools and communities. For instance, students learn how to analyze the influence of family, peers, and media on health behaviors and how to practice healthy behaviors and avoid dangerous behaviors, such as smoking and drugs.
- **Library and Research:** By the end of the year, eighth grade students can revise a question to arrive at a topic that can be researched; do advanced searching using a variety of search engines; seek information from different sources for a balanced point of view; draw conclusions supported by evidence; use information to create original works; read a variety of genres independently and share responses; show understanding of intellectual freedom and intellectual property rights; and use the Internet ethically and appropriately.
- **Technology:** Students in the eighth grade continue to practice, discuss, and share safe and acceptable uses of technology and information. Students know how to use a variety of media and formats to design, develop, publish, and present products (for example, presentations, newsletters, and Web pages) that effectively communicate information and ideas about the curriculum to multiple audiences. Students examine issues related to computer etiquette and discuss means for encouraging more effective use of technology to support effective communication, collaboration, personal productivity, and lifelong learning.



What Else You Should Know about your Child's School

How to Find Answers throughout the School Year

The easiest way to stay updated about your child's education is to get involved at your child's school: check in regularly with your child's teacher, attend parent-teacher conferences, volunteer at school events, or join the parent association.

- If you have a question about an academic issue, you should talk to your child's teacher. If you have a question about any other topic, you should call your child's school and ask to speak to the parent coordinator.
- For personalized and updated information about your child's academic progress—including attendance and test scores—log on to ARIS Parent Link at ARISparentlink.org.
- Visit the Department of Education's Web site at schools.nyc.gov for the latest news and announcements about the City's schools.
- You can also get regular e-mail alerts about news, enrollment processes, weather-related scheduling changes, and more by signing up at schools.nyc.gov/Subscribe.
- For information about your child's school, visit the school's Web site. Go to schools.nyc.gov and type in the school name in the section called "School Search."



If you have additional school-related questions, call 311, where a trained operator can help you.

Translation and Interpretation Services

All parents should be able to participate in their children's education, regardless of what languages they speak. Our Translation and Interpretation Unit translates documents containing critical information about your child's education into the nine languages most commonly spoken by our families: Arabic, Bengali, Chinese, French, Haitian Creole, Korean, Russian, Spanish, and Urdu. We can help arrange for translation into other languages. The unit also provides over-the-phone interpretation for communication between families and school staff in more than 150 languages. To use these services, speak to your child's principal or parent coordinator.

Internet Access

Throughout this booklet, we mention several Web sites you can visit to find information about your child's education. Remember, you can also always call 311. And if you don't have an Internet connection at home, you can access the Internet for free at your local public library. Many schools also allow parents to use their computers to browse the Internet for school-related information; contact your parent coordinator to learn more.

Keeping Your Child Safe and Healthy

Respect for All

We expect our schools to provide safe and supportive learning environments for all students. Bullying, verbal harassment, and physical violence have no place in our schools, especially when such behavior is prompted by prejudice, intolerance, or fear of difference. This policy is in effect during, before, and after school; while on school property; while on vehicles funded by the Department of Education; at all school-sponsored events; and on non-school property when such behavior can be demonstrated to affect the educational process or the school community negatively. A student who believes he or she has been the victim of bullying or intimidating behavior by another student should immediately report the incident orally or in writing to any school staff member. All reports of bullying, harassment, or intimidating behavior will be investigated. School counselors are available to provide counseling services. To learn more about Respect for All, visit schools.nyc.gov/RulesPolicies/RespectforAll.



Medical Care in School: Nurses, School-Based Health Centers, and Mental Health Services

Nurses are available in many schools to evaluate health problems or to help your child take medication during school hours, if he or she has a medication order from a doctor. A Medication Administration Form (MAF) is available to download from schools.nyc.gov/Offices/Health/SchoolHealthForms. All prescriptions must be written on a MAF. The school nurse cannot accept a prescription written on a doctor's personal prescription pad. Some schools have a School-Based Health Center, which provides free comprehensive medical services to students regardless of their health insurance or immigration status. For a list of School-Based Health Center locations, visit schools.nyc.gov/Offices/Health/SBHC or ask your child's principal or parent coordinator. Many schools also offer school-based mental health services, which can help you address behavioral and emotional difficulties that may interfere with your child's schoolwork. Ask your school guidance counselor, social worker, or parent coordinator about these services.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

Children with disabilities may be legally entitled to health services or accommodations in school to help them participate in regular school activities on an equal basis with their non-disabled peers. To request an accommodation, ask your child's school office for a Section 504 Accommodation form or download it from schools.nyc.gov/Offices/Health/SchoolHealthForms.

Keeping Your Child Fit and Active

Schools offer a range of fitness and health instruction during the school day—along with before and after-school activities—to help students get the 60 minutes of daily physical activity they need to stay healthy and fit. In the spring, most students receive a NYC FITNESSGRAM report that shows whether a student is in the “healthy fitness zone.” Review this report and its recommendations, which include suggestions to help your child improve his or her fitness levels.

Middle school students can also participate in the C.H.A.M.P.S. Middle School Sport and Fitness League, which offers a variety of traditional and non-traditional physical activities for students of all athletic abilities before and after school. To learn more, ask your child's principal or visit schools.nyc.gov/Academics/FitnessandHealth/CHAMPS.

Attendance

Being in school every day is the first step to success. A student who misses two days of school a month—just two days—will miss a whole month of instruction by the end of the year. School attendance is a priority, from pre-K through high school. Schools know that there may be health conditions such as asthma, family obligations, or other reasons that may make it hard for children to get to school. Talk to your child’s teacher or guidance counselor if there are obstacles to your child’s attendance. Set a family goal for better attendance.

School Food

Our schools provide healthy meals every day, serving nutritious foods such as fresh fruit and vegetables—including produce from local growers. We prohibit the use of artificial flavors, colors, sweeteners, and trans-fats in school meals.

All students, regardless of their parents’ income, are eligible for **free breakfast every day**, and many students are eligible for free or reduced-price lunches and snacks. Students who are eligible for reduced-price lunches pay \$0.25 per meal, instead of the full price of \$1.50 per meal.

Every household should complete a School Meals Application Form, sent home with your child at the beginning of the school year, to determine if your child qualifies for free or reduced-price meals. Even if your child doesn’t qualify for reduced-price meals, we ask that you fill out this form because it will help secure more State funding for your child’s school. You can also easily complete the form online for all of your children at once, at either www.ApplyForLunch.com or nyc.gov/accessnyc.

Transportation

General education eighth graders who live 1.5 miles or more from school are eligible for transportation to school. If eligible, your child’s school will issue your child a MetroCard on the first day of school. In certain circumstances, half-fare MetroCards are provided by the Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA) for City buses for general education students who are not eligible for full-fare MetroCards for both subways and buses. At the beginning of the year, you should make sure that the school has your current home address and telephone contact information.

If your child has an Individualized Educational Program (IEP) mandating yellow bus transportation, you should receive a transportation information letter in the mail with details about your child’s transportation service in early September. If you do not receive a notice, you can check at schools.nyc.gov/Offices/Transportation or call 718-392-8855.

To update information or alter your child’s bus stop location, please contact your school’s transportation coordinator. You can also request to change your child’s transportation arrangements due to extraordinary circumstances such as serious medical conditions or hazardous travel conditions. To learn your child’s transportation route number, or for concerns, please visit schools.nyc.gov/Offices/Transportation or call 718-392-8855.

School Options

Your child’s eighth grade year is an exciting time! As an applicant in the high school admissions process, your child has the opportunity to choose from nearly 700 programs at more than 400 high schools. To help you make informed choices, there will be a number of workshops, fairs, open houses, and other opportunities for you and your family to learn about New York City’s public high schools. The high school admissions process begins this fall, with your child submitting an application in December.

Below are some school options that you may want to consider.

- Specialized high schools provide students with a unique opportunity to pursue special interests and to develop their academic talents. Entrance into these schools is determined only by examination, with the exception of Fiorello H. LaGuardia High School, where admission is based on an audition and a review of academic records.
- Career & Technical Education (CTE) schools integrate academic study with the development of workforce skills in specific careers areas. High school students who complete an approved CTE program receive an industry-certified endorsement on their diploma.
- Small Learning Community (SLC) schools create a personalized learning environment for all students, often centered on a specific theme.
- Audition programs offer challenging academic programs along with intensive programs in visual and performing arts. Students interested in audition programs should refer to the Directory of the New York City Public High Schools 2011–2012 for program-based entry requirements.



To learn more about your child’s high school options and the high school admissions process, consult the Directory of the New York City Public High Schools 2011–2012, sent home with your child last June, which provides detailed descriptions of every public high school in New York City. The Directory is also available at all high school admissions fairs, Enrollment Offices, and on our Web site. To learn more about the high school admissions process, find out about upcoming sessions, subscribe for e-mail updates about admissions, or view the Directory, visit schools.nyc.gov/ChoicesEnrollment/High.

Special Education

New York City public schools work to ensure that all students with disabilities receive high-quality special education services. Students who may need these services are evaluated at their schools. Once a child is evaluated, a team including the child’s parent or guardian meets to determine if the child has a disability and requires special education services. If so, an Individualized Education Program (IEP) is developed, outlining the special education services the child should receive and establishing clear goals. Children with disabilities participate to the fullest extent appropriate in the general education environment. Some students attend a program in District 75, a Citywide district serving children with severe disabilities. To learn more about special education services, or to view *A Parent’s Guide to Special Education Services for School-Age Children*, visit schools.nyc.gov/Academics/SpecialEducation. You can also speak with your child’s principal or parent coordinator or call 311.

English Language Learners

We’re committed to serving the needs of students who speak a language other than English at home and who are not yet proficient in English. We provide English Language Learners (ELLs), former ELLs, immigrants, and their families with access to an excellent education, regardless of immigration status. ELL programs help students develop their language skills as they work to master their school assignments. To learn which programs may be best for your child, speak with your child’s principal or parent coordinator, call 311, or visit schools.nyc.gov/Academics/ELL. In New York City, we have three programs available for ELLs: English as a Second Language, transitional bilingual, and dual language.

Charter Schools

Charter schools are free public schools open to all New York City students but run by outside organizations, not the local school district. Although charter schools operate independently, students attending charter schools are held to the same standards and take the same state tests as students in other public schools. We've opened dozens of charter schools around the City to offer you more high-quality school choices.

Your child may apply to as many charter schools as you wish, using a common application available online. Schools that receive more applications than available seats will hold admissions lotteries. These lotteries are random, not based on the order in which applications are submitted, and cannot favor students based on factors such as academic achievement, special education status, or English fluency. To learn more or to download the common application, visit schools.nyc.gov/Charters.

Services Available to Students in Temporary Housing

Homeless youth are guaranteed equal access to a free high-quality public education, and we offer support services to help students living in temporary housing enroll, attend, and succeed in school. If your child does not have a permanent home, he or she is entitled to assistance with school enrollment, transportation, free school meals, school supplies, and more. Call 311 and ask for a Students in Temporary Housing Liaison, who can help you with these services or visit schools.nyc.gov/StudentSupport/NonAcademicSupport/StudentsinTemporaryHousing.

Ensuring Student Success

We've created several tools to help you understand your child's progress over the school year and how well your school is helping your child learn. You can use these tools to support your child's learning both in school, and at home.

ARIS Parent Link

For up-to-date personalized information about your child's academic progress, including attendance and test grades, check out ARISparentlink.org. It's available in ten languages and includes online tutorials about how you can use this information to support your child. To log on to your child's account, you'll need an e-mail address, your child's ID (OSIS) number, and your password. Before logging in for the first time, contact the parent coordinator at your child's school for a temporary password.

Progress Reports

Every fall, your child's school receives a Progress Report, including a letter grade of A through F, that measures student academic performance

and progress and school environment. You can use the Progress Report to compare schools, to highlight areas in which your child's school is performing well, and to identify ways it can improve. Each school also receives a Progress Report Overview each year that summarizes the key points of the report. To find these reports or for more information see schools.nyc.gov/Accountability/Tools/Report/ or look on ARIS Parent Link: ARISparentlink.org.

New York City School Survey

New York City families have great ideas about how to make our schools better. The annual School Survey invites parents, teachers, and older students to evaluate their schools. Feedback from the survey contributes to the grade your child's school receives on its Progress Report and helps educators make important decisions about your child's school. Make sure you fill out your School Survey either online or on paper this spring.

Know Your Rights

Under federal and state law, you have certain rights as a parent or guardian. These include the rights to access your child's school, classrooms, academic and attendance records, and educational materials, as long as this access does not disrupt the school day. You also have the right to access information about and attend public meetings as well as hearings of the Chancellor, City board, community superintendents, community education councils, and schools. If you disagree with a school decision, you may take legal action to appeal decisions or may file complaints with the Department of Education about matters affecting your child's education. Finally, you may access information about programs that allow your child to apply for admission, where appropriate, to schools outside your child's attendance zone. To read the full Parents' Bill of Rights, visit schools.nyc.gov/RulesPolicies/ParentBillOfRights, or to get more information about complaint procedures, visit schools.nyc.gov/Offices/OFEA. If you have additional questions or concerns, call 311.

Notice of Federal Privacy Rights

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act ("FERPA") gives parents and students age 18 and older certain rights with respect to student education records. The Parents' Bill of Rights and Chancellor's Regulation A-820 provide additional information, which you can see at schools.nyc.gov/RulesPolicies.

You have the right to:

1. Request, inspect and review your child's education records within 45 days of receipt of your request. You should submit a written request that identifies the record(s) you wish to inspect. Your child's school will notify you of the time and place where you may inspect records.
2. Request changes to your child's education records when you believe they are inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise violate FERPA's privacy rights. You should make requests to amend records in writing, and identify the content you want changed and the reason for doing so. If NYC DOE decides not to amend records as requested, you will be notified of your right to a hearing and of certain hearing procedures.
3. Privacy of personally identifiable information in your child's education records, except when FERPA allows disclosure without consent.

One exception permitting disclosure without consent is disclosure to school officials who need to review education records to fulfill their professional responsibility. Examples of school officials include NYC DOE employees (such as administrators, supervisors, teachers, other instructors, or support staff members), and people whom the NYC DOE has engaged to perform services or functions for which it would otherwise use its own employees (such as agents, contractors and consultants).

Another exception permitting disclosure without consent is disclosure, upon request, to officials of another school district in which your child seeks or plans to enroll, or is already enrolled if made for purposes of your child's enrollment or transfer.

File a complaint with the US DOE if you believe the NYC DOE failed to comply with FERPA's requirements. Complaints may be filed with the office administering FERPA: Family Policy Compliance Office, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20202-8520.

LIBRARY CARD APPLICATION

There are more than 200 public libraries throughout New York City. Free library cards allow you to borrow books, DVDs, CDs, and other materials. Local branches also hold events ranging from picture book readings for children to film series, poetry readings, and computer classes for adults.

Instructions:

To obtain a library card, please complete this application and submit it with an acceptable ID to your local public library. **Adults** can show a current New York State driver's license, learner's permit, or other photo identification. **Young Adults (ages 13–17)** can show a current report card, working papers, or school ID. **Children (ages 12 and under)** must have a parent or legal guardian sign this application; parents will be responsible for materials checked out on their child's card. Visit the Web site of the library in your borough for a complete list of acceptable identification forms and the location of a branch near you. For the Bronx, Manhattan, and Staten Island, go to **nypl.org**; for Brooklyn, go to **brooklynpubliclibrary.org**; for Queens, go to **queenslibrary.org**. Adults and Young Adults may also apply for a library card online.

1. Check One:

Child (Ages 12 and under) **Young Adult** (Ages 13–17) **Adult** (Ages 18 and older)

2. Student/Library Cardholder Information:

Last Name _____ First Name _____ Middle Name/Initial _____

Date of Birth (Month/Day/Year) _____ Gender Male Female

Street Address _____ Apt.# _____

Borough or City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Home phone _____

3. Parent/ Guardian (must be completed for students 12 and under):

Last Name _____ First Name _____ Middle Name/Initial _____

E-mail Address _____ Phone _____

Check A or B:

A. My child may borrow adult as well as children's materials. B. My child may borrow children's materials only.

Parent/Guardian is responsible for materials checked out on child's card.

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ **Date** _____

This Section Is for Staff Use Only

NEW

LOST/REPL.

TRANSFER

PTYPE

EXP.DATE

COMPLETE: (Staff Initials)

Eighth Grade Calendar

September 8

First day of school

September 14–October 12

Register for the fall 2011 Specialized High Schools Admissions Test (SHSAT) with guidance counselors

September 24–25

Citywide High School Fair at Brooklyn Technical High School

September 29–30

Rosh Hashanah (no school)

October 10

Columbus Day observed (no school)

October 22–23

Borough High School Fairs

October 29–30

SHSAT for all current eighth grade students (students are assigned a test date)

November 8

Election Day (no school)

November 11

Veterans Day observed (no school)

November 13–19

Open Schools Week

November 16

Parent-teacher conferences, evening

November 17

Parent-teacher conferences, afternoon

November 24–25

Thanksgiving Recess (no school)

December 26–January 2

Winter Recess (no school)

December 2

High school applications due to counselors

January 16

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day (no school)

February 20–24

Midwinter Recess (no school)

February 28

Parent-teacher conferences, afternoon

February 29

Parent-teacher conferences, evening

April 6–13

Spring Recess (no school)

May 28

Memorial Day observed (no school)

June 7

Chancellor's Conference Day (no school)

June 27

Last day of school; early dismissal

Learn More

This guide provides only an overview of the many standards your child will be learning this year. You can view and download copies of these guides for grades pre-K–12 as well as the complete standards for all subjects and all grades on our Web site at schools.nyc.gov/Academics.

The Department of Education offers additional information about your child's education and ideas on how you can support it, both at home and at your child's school. For more information, visit schools.nyc.gov. You also can contact your school's parent coordinator or call 311.