

## Specialized School Programs

*Potential parent priority: Parent-driven specialized school program options in the District in high-need locations and across grade levels.*

### What are Specialized School Programs?

Specialized school programs provide students unique learning opportunities with **curriculums that center on a variety of topics and/or approaches to learning**, which include:

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| <p><b>Alternative Diploma Granting:</b> High schools for <b>disengaged youth or youth who are not currently enrolled in an education or training program.</b> They may have previously dropped out, be in juvenile court, or have had difficulties in traditional school settings.</p>                             | <p><b>International Baccalaureate (IB):</b> A rigorous international <b>diploma program</b> that seeks to “develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect.”</p> |
| <p><b>Arts Integration:</b> Teaches academic content through art, such as drama, visual arts, music, and dance.</p>  | <p><b>Montessori:</b> A student-centered model where students work at their own pace through <b>project-based and personalized learning as well as group collaboration.</b></p>   |
| <p><b>Career and Technical Education (CTE):</b> Teach specific <b>career skills centered around skilled trades, science, or technology.</b> These programs prepare students for a variety of pathways, including postsecondary degrees or certifications in a technical field as well as high-skilled careers.</p> | <p><b>Single-gender Campus:</b> Schools teach <b>male and female students separately.</b> The goal is to allow educators to adapt their school environments, teaching, and curriculum to each gender’s specific learning style and developmental needs.</p>                   |
| <p><b>Dual College Enrollment:</b> Participating high school students, or “dual enrollees”, can <b>enroll in partnering colleges or universities tuition-free at the same time they are working toward a high school diploma.</b></p>  | <p><b>STEM:</b> Integrates <b>science, technology, engineering, and math together equally alongside reading and writing.</b></p>  |
| <p><b>Dual Language/Language Immersion:</b> Students are <b>taught academic content</b> (reading, writing, math, science, etc.) in both <b>English and a partner language.</b></p>   | <p><b>Special Education:</b> Schools <b>specifically designed</b> for students with <b>significant special education needs.</b></p>   |

### What is the Current State of Specialized School Programs in DC?

Access to programs is **unequal across parts of the city.** Using our best data (though its not centralized or complete) **West of the River** has ~**76%** of specialized school programs while **East of the River** only has ~**24%** of the specialized school programs despite having the majority of the students in the city.