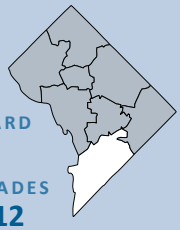
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

2011–12 SCHOOL SCORECARD

Ballou High School



WARD
8
GRADES
9-12

Dear Parent or Guardian,

You are the first teacher and most important partner in your child's education. As a result, you need high-quality information on the performance of DCPS schools and the District overall. This scorecard provides important facts related to student performance, school facilities, and the academic and extracurricular opportunities available at this school. Taken together, I believe these data can help you make the best, most informed decisions possible related to your child's education.

While the data on this scorecard objectively illustrate the progress of this school, the best way to gauge a school's quality is to get involved. Be sure to review the back page of this document for ideas on engaging with your school community, such as volunteering or attending parent-teacher conferences. You can also compare schools' programs and performance online at **www.dcps.dc.gov/profiles.**

It's my hope that you use this information to hold principals, school staff and my office accountable for continuing to improve the quality of education available to your family.

Sincerely,

Kaya Henderson
Chancellor

3401 4th St. SE, Washington, DC 20032
Phone: (202) 645-3400 | **Fax:** (202) 645-3397
Principal: Rahman Branch | rahman.branch@dc.gov
Web Site: www.dcps.dc.gov/DCPS/ballou
School Hours: 8:45 a.m. – 3:15 p.m.

Ballou Senior High School offers myriad of academic programs that allow students to explore and reach their maximum potential. These programs include Honors and AP courses, grade-level Academies, a Transition Academy for students with special needs, and the 21st Century Community Learning Center. More than 10 percent of graduating seniors are selected for the Achievers Scholarship from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. The 2010 Valedictorian was awarded a Gates Millennium Scholarship and the 2009 Salutatorian was a White House Scholar. Ballou students also benefit from more than 50 partnerships with national and community organizations.

PROGRAMS (2011–12)

ACADEMIC ENRICHMENT

- Honors and AP Classes
- Transition Academy @ Ballou
- International Baccalaureate Program
- READ 180
- 21st Century Community Learning Center
- DC College Access Program
- DC College Success Foundation
- Upward Bound
- American University
- National Honor Society

WELLNESS AND FITNESS

- Unity Healthcare
- Alliance for a Healthier Generation
- Children's National Medical Center
- Metro Teen AIDS
- New Heights II Program
- Wendt Center
- Urban Gardening Club
- Football
- Girls Lacrosse
- Girl & Boys Tennis

ARTS AND CULTURE

- Guerilla Arts
- Spanish Honor Society
- DC Creative Writing Workshop
- PEN Faulker
- Critical Exposure
- Young Playwright's Theater
- Arena Stage
- Drama Club
- Photography Club
- Poetry Club

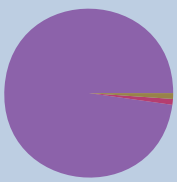
SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT STATUS

Restructuring Year 2 — This school has failed to make AYP for six years. This school must implement its restructuring plan at the beginning of the school year and continue to offer Public School Choice and Supplemental Educational Services to eligible students.

STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS (2010–11)

Enrollment: **1,100**

- Black: 98%
- Hispanic/Latino: 1%
- White: 1%
- Asian: 0%
- Pacific/Hawaiian: 0%
- Native/Alaskan: 0%
- Multiple races: 0%



English language learners: 0%
Free and reduced-price lunch: 80%
Special education: 22%
In-boundary: 86%

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

2011–12 SCHOOL SCORECARD

Ballou High School

STUDENT PERFORMANCE

Results of annual, standardized assessments don't describe the full school experience, but they do provide the most accurate and reliable signal of student performance. Every DCPS school should demonstrate progress in the core areas of math and reading, as well as cultivate students and faculty focused on improving performance through outstanding teaching and learning.

	0 – 100	WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?
Meeting or exceeding **math** standards	2010: 26% 2011: 19% District Average: 46%	The percentage of students meeting or exceeding state standards by earning scores of Proficient or Advanced on the District of Columbia's Comprehensive Assessment System (DC CAS or DC CAS Alt).
Meeting or exceeding **reading** standards	2010: 30% 2011: 21% District Average: 44%	
Exceeding **math** standards	2010: 0% 2011: 1% District Average: 12%	The percentage of students performing at the highest level, Advanced, on the District of Columbia's Comprehensive Assessment System (DC CAS or DC CAS Alt).
Exceeding **reading** standards	2010: 3% 2011: 2% District Average: 13%	
Graduation rate	2009: 82% 2010: 76% District Average: 73%	The graduation rate at this school is based on the total number of graduates for a given year and is divided by this total plus the total number of dropouts over the previous four years.
5-year graduation rate	2010: N/A 2011: N/A District Average: N/A	These data will be available in fall 2012. At that time, all graduation rates will be based not on the total number of graduates in a given year, but on the four- and five-year high school outcomes of various 9th grade cohorts.
College enrollment	2009: 30% 2010: 32% District Average: 44%	The percentage of students graduating in June or August that are registered at a college or university the fall following their high school graduation.
Advanced Placement performance	2010: 8% 2011: 3% District Average: 30%	The percentage of students participating in an Advanced Placement examination and scoring 3, 4 or 5. These scores generally enable students to receive college credit.
Student engagement	2009: 81 2011: 79 District Average: 80	A score that signals students' level of effort and interest in their classes, as well as students' confidence in their own educational success. The scale is from 0 to 100, and the score is based on the results of a student survey given every two years.
Retention of effective and highly effective teachers	2010: N/A 2011: 63% District Average: 83%	The percentage of teachers rated Effective or Highly Effective by DC Public Schools' IMPACT evaluation system who are returning to this school from the previous year.

STUDENT PROGRESS

Compared to student performance, which signals the share of students achieving at various levels, student progress is a measure of how much students grow from year to year. While some schools may have relatively few students meeting or exceeding state standards, it is important to gauge the extent to which those schools help students catch up.

	0 – 100	WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?
9th grade completion	2010: 53% 2011: 51% District Average: 56%	The percentage of first-time 9th grade students who earned enough credits by the end of the spring semester to be promoted to 10th grade. These students are on track for graduation.
Student growth in **math**	2010: 48% 2011: 39% District Average: 46%	The median student's growth on the District of Columbia's Comprehensive Assessment System (DC CAS). This score describes the percentage of students the median (middle) student outperforms who started with a similar level of prior achievement. For example, a score of 70 means that this school's median student outperformed more than 70 percent of students in the District with the same level of prior achievement.
Student growth in **reading**	2010: 38% 2011: 41% District Average: 51%	

Ballou High School

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

SAFE AND EFFECTIVE SCHOOLS

DCPS believes that all schools must provide caring and supportive environments. School environments that are safe and welcoming better enable students and staff to learn and teach.

	0 — 100	WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?
Student attendance	2010: 76% 2011: 76% District Average: 94%	The average percentage of students attending school daily.
School safety	2009: 62 2011: 53 District Average: 65	A score that represents student, parent and staff perceptions of safety and order at this school. The scale is from 0 to 100, and the score is based on the results of a stakeholder survey given every two years.
Expulsions and suspensions	2010: 4% 2011: 7% District Average: 4%	The percentage of students who were expelled or suspended for 11 days or more.
Serious student misbehavior	2010: 3 2011: 5 District Average: 2	The number of long-term suspensions or expulsions for the most serious (Tier 5) student misbehaviors in this school per 100 students.
Student re-enrollment	2010: 79% 2011: 77% District Average: 81%	The percentage of students who returned to school the following year. This does not include students in the school's highest grade level.

FAMILY AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND SATISFACTION

Families and community members play key roles in helping students and schools thrive. When parents, guardians and family members feel respected and informed about their student's life at school, they are more likely to be involved in helping their child learn.

	0 — 100	WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?
Community satisfaction	2009: 55 2011: 56 District Average: 68	A score that represents overall student, parent and staff satisfaction with this school. The scale is from 0 to 100, and the score is based on the results of a stakeholder survey given every two years.
Parent engagement	2009: N/A 2011: 63 District Average: 73	A score that represents how well and how often parents felt this school engaged and communicated with them. The scale is from 0 to 100, and the score is based on the results of a parent survey given every two years.

UNIQUE SCHOOL INDICATORS

The school scorecard is meant to provide information that is easy to compare across schools. However, each school is unique in its approach to teaching and learning. This section provides schools the opportunity to highlight their own measures of success.

	0 — 100	WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?
Individualized Education Plan timeliness	2010: 90% 2011: 90%	The percentage of special education students whose Individualized Education Plan (IEP) meetings were held on-time.
Advanced Placement enrollment	2010: 3% 2011: 3%	The percentage of students in grades 11 and 12 enrolled in one or more Advanced Placement (AP) courses.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

2011–12 SCHOOL SCORECARD

Ballou High School

Facilities:

- Art room ✓
- Auditorium ✓
- Computer lab ✓
- Gym ✓
- Media center ✓
- Music room ✓
- Outdoor recreation space ✓
- Science lab ✓

Other:

- Parent organization ✓
- School uniform ✓
- Title I ✓

Feeder School(s):

- Hart Middle School
- Johnson Middle School

Community Partnerships:

- Living Classrooms for the National Capital Region
- Friends of Ballou
- Jobs for America's Graduates (JAG-DC)
- Urban Alliance
- U.S. Department of Transportation
- Opportunities Industrialization Center
- Federal Management Systems
- Mentors Inc.
- SBY Teen Outreach Program
- Northrop Grumman

Career Pathways:

- Automotive Technology
- Biotechnology
- Mass Media & Communication
- Culinary Arts

GETTING TO SCHOOL

A2, A8, A42 (Anacostia-Congress Heights Line)
A5 (Anacostia-Fort Drum Line)
M8, M9 (Congress Heights Shuttle Line)
W4 (Deanwood-Alabama Ave Line)

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Parents and community members play an important role in ensuring that every child, in every classroom across the district, receives the high-quality education he or she deserves.

Volunteer at school. Volunteers are key to helping students succeed. Many schools need volunteers who can work directly with students on reading and math, but volunteers also can provide support in classrooms, the office and the library, as well as help plan and staff events, write grants, and much more. For more information, check with the principal or visit **www.dcps.dc.gov/DCPS/volunteer.**

Join the school's parent organization. Parent organizations are an important part of every school community. They provide ways to support students through community events, fundraising and other activities. Joining a parent organization helps parents meet other parents who are engaged in their child's education. For more information, contact the school.

Attend parent-teacher conferences. Stay in touch with your child's teachers and ask that they be in touch with you. Ask your child's teachers about what kind of classroom behavior they expect and how they reward positive behavior. Ask what your child should be learning, how well he or she is doing, and what you can do to help. Parent-teacher conferences will be held at school on Oct. 17, 2011; Feb. 6, 2012; and May 14, 2012.

Work with or run for the school advisory board. This group advises the principal on the comprehensive school plan — including specific programs and activities that strengthen student performance, create safe and effective schools, and involve parents and families. For more information, check with the principal.

Talk to your child about school. Your opinion matters to your child. Ask your child about one thing he or she learned at school, and keep asking every day! For more information, visit **www.dcps.dc.gov/DCPS/studentsuccess.**

WHERE CAN I FIND INFORMATION ON OTHER SCHOOLS?

If you are interested in seeing the information contained here for every DCPS school, please visit **www.dcps.dc.gov/profiles.** You will be able to search for DCPS schools based on the information that you care about, and you will also be able to compare schools side by side.

HOW CAN I STAY UP TO DATE ON WHAT'S HAPPENING?

Be sure to let your school know if your contact information changes. Visit **www.dcps.dc.gov** regularly, and sign up to receive regular e-mail updates from DCPS at **www.dcps.dc.gov/DCPS/enews.**