



## PRESS RELEASE

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# Mayor Bowser Joins District Families at EdFest 2015

*Free Education Fair Offers Families a Look at the Variety of D.C. School Options Ahead of Opening of Common Lottery Application*

(WASHINGTON, D.C.) – Today, Mayor Muriel Bowser and education leaders joined thousands of District families at the DC Armory for EdFEST, an education fair featuring more than 200 District of Columbia Public School (DCPS) and public charter school options for pre-kindergarten to 12<sup>th</sup> grade students.

***“EdFEST is a powerful resource for District families,” said Mayor Bowser. “Ensuring our families have the information they need to make the best and most-informed decision about their public school options is critical as we prepare our young people for college and career.”***

EdFEST is a showcase of schools where families can talk with representatives from schools city-wide and learn how to apply to them through the My School DC application which opens on Monday, December 14<sup>th</sup> for the 2016-17 school year at [www.myschooldc.org](http://www.myschooldc.org).

“By offering EdFEST, we hope to empower families as they make important decisions about their children’s future,” said Deputy Mayor Jennie Niles. “I am thrilled that so many families attended and look forward to the opening of the MySchool DC common lottery.”

A variety of District agencies were on-hand to provide services and activities to families. The Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) provided sports and games for kids and the DC Public Library (DCPL) hosted story time. Families also took advantage of a variety of free flu shots for adults and immunization and dental screenings for children, administered through the DC Department of Health. The Cat in the Hat and G-Wiz from the Washington Wizards were special guests.

“Families learned all about the fantastic and diverse public school options that the District has to offer,” says Cat Peretti, Executive Director of My School DC. “We worked hard to make sure EdFEST was accessible to all communities so every family could take part.”

EdFEST Media partners included Comcast, Telemundo, WNEW 99.1, El Zol, *Washington Parent Magazine*, WETA Kids, the Washington Informer and WPGC 95.5.

For more information on My School DC and EdFEST please visit [www.myschooldc.org](http://www.myschooldc.org) or call the My School DC Hotline at 202-888-6336.