

## Unfilled Seats in 4 & 5 STAR Rated Schools

**In SY18-19, there were 2,500 unfilled seats in 4 and 5 STAR schools compared to audited enrollment**

In SY18-19, there were approximately 2,500 unfilled seats available in 4 and 5 STAR rated schools across the district in both DCPS and public charter schools. Most of the excess capacity was available in elementary schools or elementary/middle education campuses. In addition to the 2,500 unfilled seats, an additional 200 seats are expected to come online as new schools grow to their full grade spans in future school years.

### About the STAR Framework

The STAR Framework is part of the Office of the State Superintendent’s (OSSE) DC School Report Card, along with over 150 other data elements. The framework includes a list of over 30 metrics and each school is given an overall star rating, with one star being the lowest and five being the highest.

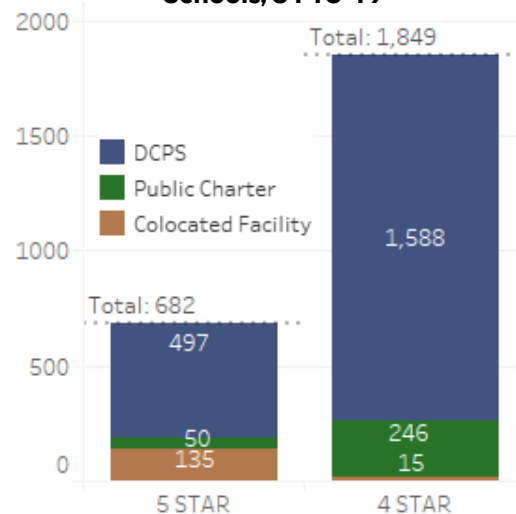
### What are “Unfilled Seats”?

Each school year, LEAs report their programmatic capacity, which is the maximum number of students that can be housed in each school building given the school’s facility and existing educational programs, class size, schedule, and staffing. This capacity is then compared to the audited enrollment for all grades located in the facility for that school

year. Subtracting enrollment from programmatic capacity demonstrates how many additional seats are (or are not) available for students in a building.

If a school enrolls fewer students than their capacity, this equates to “unfilled seats,” meaning that there are seats available to enroll additional students. If a school enrolls more students than their capacity, the number of “unfilled seats” is set to zero, as no seats are available for students. This prevents one over-enrolled building from cancelling out the unfilled seats in another when aggregating.

**Unfilled Seats in 4 and 5 STAR Rated Schools, SY18-19**

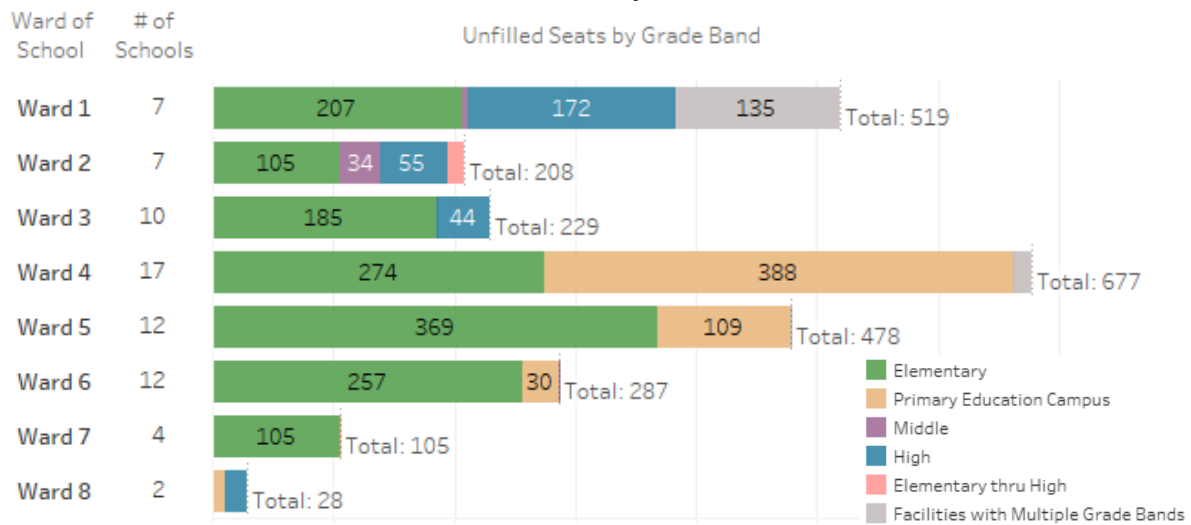


Note: A Colocated facility is one where schools from multiple LEAs are located in the same facility; can be DCPS and PCS co-located or multiple PCS LEAs colocated.

Sources: OSSE, DC School Report Card, 2018 and 2019; OSSE Audited Enrollment, SY17-18 and SY18-19

*continued*

## Unfilled Seats in 4 and 5 STAR Rated School Facilities by Ward of School and Grade Band, SY18-19



Notes: Excludes schools that have not reached their maximum grade span and portable DCPS capacity. Schools that are located in multiple facilities may be counted more than once, while 4+ STAR schools located with lower rated schools are not included. "Facilities with Multiple Grade Bands" are those colocated facilities where the grade bands of the schools span more than Elementary/Middle grades or Middle/High grades.  
Sources: OSSE, DC School Report Card, 2018 and 2019; OSSE Audited Enrollment, SY17-18 and SY18-19

### Unfilled Seats Citywide

In SY18-19, there were nearly 19,700 unfilled seats in all public schools that had reached their maximum grade spans\* (see [EdScope Unfilled Seats](#)). Of those, 2,531 unfilled seats were in 4 and 5 STAR rated school facilities.

### Unfilled Seats by Ward and Grade Band

Of the approximately 2,500 unfilled seats available in 4 and 5 STAR rated schools, 2,039 (or 81%) were in either elementary schools or primary education campuses (PK-8th).

Wards 4 and 1 had the most unfilled 4 and 5 STAR seats available, at 677 and 519 seats respectively. Ward 4 also is where the most primary education campus 4 and 5 STAR

\* Some new schools will open with only a couple of grades to start and will grow one grade a year until they reach their maximum grade. Including these schools may not provide an accurate picture of utilization or unfilled seats because these schools are still expanding and may fill their excess space.

seats were available (388 seats). Ward 5 also had a significant number of seats available in 4 and 5 STAR schools, due to having the most unfilled elementary school seats (369 seats).

Although these seats were unfilled as of the October audit, some schools see increases in enrollment throughout the school year (particularly by-right schools), while others see declines (particularly choice schools or those schools available only via lottery). Neighborhood by-right 4+ STAR schools declined by 176 unfilled seats as of May, while 4+ STAR schools of choice increased by 193 unfilled seats. See the DC School Report Card Student Mobility rates for net enrollment increases and decreases by month for each school.

**For more information on the STAR Framework and the DME's methodology visit:** [The DC School Report Card](#) and [EdScope](#)

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