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January 31, 2018

Dear Benning and Edgewood Middle Campus Families,

I am writing with an important assessment update from Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE). Due to OSSE's third-party vendor issues, and resulting data invalidity, the city-wide DC Science Assessment *will not* be administered in Spring 2018 to our Benning and Edgewood 5th and 8th graders.

For background, federal law requires the administration of a standardized science assessment. In DC, this assessment is called DC Science, and is administered each year to all 5th and 8th grade students. OSSE experienced accuracy and quality problems with recent DC Science Assessment data and, as such, deemed 2016 and 2017 scores invalid citywide. OSSE is retracting those scores, canceling the 2018 DC Science administration, and is actively looking for a new assessment vendor ahead of the Spring 2019 testing window.

What does this mean for your child? DC Prep will not receive student level science assessment scores or aggregate results from OSSE and will not provide corresponding score reports to families in the current 2017-18 academic year. We will, however, continue to include Science as a core part of our curriculum; our academic model remains unchanged by this recent OSSE announcement and we will look to administer the DC Science Assessment in Spring 2019 and beyond. In addition, this news in no way impacts our regularly-scheduled 2018 PARCC testing window or our remaining, routine interim assessment windows.

If you have any questions or want more information and context behind this decision, I encourage you to visit OSSE's website at <https://osse.dc.gov/strengtheningdcscience>. Thank you for your ongoing partnership with DC Prep in your child's education.

Sincerely,

Katie Severn
DC Prep President and Chief Academic Officer