



# A CAPITAL COMMITMENT

Strategic Plan **2017**



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS



# A CAPITAL COMMITMENT

## *Better Schools for All Students by 2017*

The years 2012 to 2017 will be a time of dramatic progress for the District of Columbia Public Schools. With this strategic plan, we recommit DCPS to providing every student with a safe, academically challenging, and inspiring learning experience.

DCPS' five-year strategic plan, *A Capital Commitment*, provides a roadmap for building DCPS into a high-quality, vibrant school district that earns the confidence of our community. The plan defines an overarching **purpose** as well as **five goals** that will guide DCPS' work through 2017. Our **stakeholder commitments** reflect our promises to the community and underscore our dedication to improving the quality of education in the District.



### OUR STAKEHOLDER COMMITMENTS

**To the children of DC**, we promise that our top priority is ensuring that you have the opportunity to attend a great school — one that you love and that prepares you for success in life.

**To DCPS teachers and staff**, we promise to respect you as professionals and invest in your success by providing you and your students with the environment, resources, and tools you need.

**To DCPS school leaders**, we promise to respect you as professionals; give you the support to lead; and provide the environment, resources, and tools that you, your staff, and your students need to succeed.

**To parents**, we promise to partner with you to ensure your children's success.

**To members of the DC community**, we promise to provide opportunities for you to contribute to the success of our schools and school district.

**To potential employers**, we promise to provide you with a steady supply of well-educated young adults who will make positive contributions to the success of your organizations.

**To the city (and state) of Washington, DC**, we promise to make our school system one that all citizens are proud of — a school system that can be the anchor for thriving, productive, and growing communities.



# OUR PURPOSE

is to ensure that every DCPS school provides a world-class education that prepares ALL of our students, regardless of background or circumstance, for success in college, career, and life.

# OUR GOALS

are ambitious. Based on the hopes and dreams of DCPS stakeholders, these goals will help us align our resources and measure our success.



## GOAL

# 1 IMPROVE ACHIEVEMENT RATES

At least **70%** of our students will be **proficient in reading and math**, and we will **double the number of advanced students** in the district.

### Proficiency rates

#### READING

SY 10–11 43% ➔ SY 16–17 70%

#### MATH

SY 10–11 43% ➔ SY 16–17 70%

### Number of advanced students

#### READING

SY 10–11 1,907 ➔ SY 16–17 3,814

#### MATH

SY 10–11 2,382 ➔ SY 16–17 4,764

In 2011–12, DCPS launched a new, rigorous academic plan aligned to the Common Core State Standards. This plan is designed to prepare all students for success and accelerate student achievement. To improve achievement rates, DCPS will:

- Continue to invest in high-quality instruction by rewarding our highly effective teachers and principals.
- Provide professional development driven by student performance data and teacher needs.
- Increase investments to improve In-Seat Attendance (ISA), decrease tardiness and truancy, reduce bullying, and improve student wellness.
- Invest in new gifted and talented programs and continued expansion of International Baccalaureate and Advanced Placement programs.





### Proficiency rates in the 40 lowest-performing schools\*

#### READING

SY 10–11  
23% → SY 16–17  
63%

#### MATH

SY 10–11  
22% → SY 16–17  
62%

*\*Average of 40 lowest-performing schools*



### High school graduation rate

SY 10–11  
53% → SY 16–17  
75%

## GOAL 2 INVEST IN STRUGGLING SCHOOLS

Our **40 lowest-performing schools** will **increase proficiency rates** by **40 percentage points**.

DCPS is committed to investing in our 40 lowest-performing schools, which serve large populations of students who need extra support, including low-income students, English language learners, and students with special needs. To help accelerate achievement, DCPS will:

- Offer the Proving What's Possible grant to low-performing schools that are improving instruction, extending learning time, and making targeted technology investments.
- Invest in the teachers, principals, and staff who interact with students every day. We will continue to recruit and retain highly effective educators with a focus on placing these educators in our 40 lowest-performing schools.

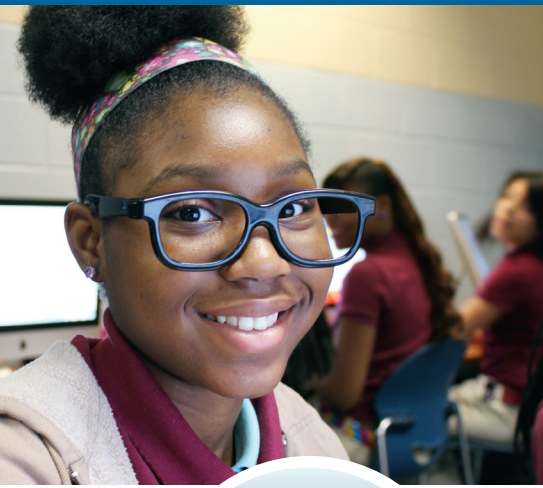


## GOAL 3 INCREASE GRADUATION RATE

At least **75% of entering 9th graders** will **graduate** from high school **in four years**.

To ensure that more students graduate on time, DCPS will leverage technology and provide targeted support to secondary schools. For example, through an electronic portfolio, students in grades 6–12 will discover their interests, set goals, and create a thoughtful plan for high school and beyond. DCPS will also:

- Provide targeted resources to schools with low promotion rates for first-time 9th graders, including an intensive summer bridge program.
- Invest in an Early Warning Intervention system so we can identify students who need support to graduate on time.
- Explore new ways to make the high school experience vibrant and relevant.



**Percentage of students who say they like their school**

SY 16-17  
**90%**



**Enrollment**

SY 16-17  
**more than 47,000**

**GOAL**

**4 IMPROVE SATISFACTION**

**90%** of students will say they **like their school**.

Academic achievement begins with engagement. DCPS is committed to ensuring that our students enjoy school and treasure their educational experiences. Our schools will:

- Employ dedicated staff who make meaningful connections with students.
- Provide a rich and varied educational experience that includes art, music, and physical education.
- Offer safe and modern facilities, quality meals, and current technology.
- Welcome families and encourage them to participate in their children’s education.

**GOAL**

**5 INCREASE ENROLLMENT**

DCPS will **increase its enrollment** over five years.

As enrollment increases, DCPS will be able to expand the range of courses and experiences offered at each school to make DCPS the system of choice for more residents. To expand enrollment in the coming years, DCPS will:

- Prepare to serve all students, including special education students who are returning to DCPS from non-public placements.
- Continue to use targeted recruitment to raise the profile of high-performing schools. As part of this effort, DCPS will continue to make school performance data easily accessible for families.
- Continually improve the quality of education at every school to attract new families to DCPS.





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