

What People Are Saying About D.C. Public School's Acting Chancellor Dr. Lewis D. Ferebee

Since assuming the role of Acting Chancellor in January 2019, Dr. Lewis D. Ferebee has demonstrated to the D.C. Public Schools (DCPS) community that he is the best person to lead DCPS into the future. He is committed to restoring public confidence and transparency while building off the previous decade of reforms to the district's education system. Dr. Ferebee's overarching goal has been to establish a high level of transparency between himself and the community.

In just his first few weeks, Dr. Ferebee has focused on getting to know DCPS students – their dreams, their challenges, and their lived experiences both inside and outside of the classroom. Dr. Ferebee has also prioritized establishing partnerships and trust with parents, families, community members, and educators to set every student up for success. Each of these areas of focus are vital to Dr. Ferebee's goal of ensuring there is a high-quality school at every grade level in every neighborhood.

Outlined below are highlights from experts and leaders familiar with Dr. Ferebee's record of success:

CBS 4: [Lewis Ferebee leaving IPS superintendent job for D.C. schools](#) (December 3, 2018)

Former Indianapolis Mayor Greg Ballard: "Superintendent Ferebee's impactful leadership made a significant difference not only for Indianapolis Public Schools, but also for our entire community. At a time when the largest school district in the state needed bold, new ideas, Dr. Ferebee led with transparency and courage, while always doing what's best for students. Congratulations and best wishes for continued success in our nation's capital."

"Change is hard. Change makes people upset sometimes," he said. "Yet, if you look at the educational results, [...] we are making dramatic improvement."

Mayor Bowser's Office: [Mayor Bowser Announces Dr. Lewis D. Ferebee as DCPS Chancellor](#) (December 3, 2018)

Mayor Bowser: "Dr. Ferebee is someone with experience leading at all levels of public education – from serving in the classroom and as an elementary and middle school principal to leading a system that serves more than 30,000 students. He is a strong leader and educator, and has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to providing all students and families high-quality educational opportunities."

"Dr. Ferebee presents with a long record of success focusing on some of the issues that are very critical to DCPS at this time," she said at a news conference Monday afternoon."

WISH TV 8: [IPS superintendent Ferebee to head DC school district](#) (December 4, 2018)

IPS Board: *"We are happy for Dr. Ferebee and we are proud of his work on behalf of the students in our district."*

Indy Star: [Lewis Ferebee, leaving as IPS superintendent, says 'show is not dependent on one person'](#)
(December 3, 2018)

Former Indy Star Columnist Tim Swarens: *"He built partnerships with The Mind Trust and other organizations pushing for innovation in how schools are organized and managed. He embraced the Indy Chamber's review of the district's finances and acted on recommendations to streamline operations and to sell off unneeded property."*

Michael O'Conner, IPS Board Member: *"He's been a strong leader,"* said [Michael] O'Connor, an Eli Lilly executive who joined the IPS Board in 2015. *"He's worked hard to understand the community."*

WUSA 9: [D.C., meet your next chancellor: 8 things to know about Dr. Lewis Ferebee](#) (December 3, 2018)

Former IPS Board Member Andrea (Annie) Roof: He came to Indianapolis after serving as chief of staff for the Durham Public School system. Ferebee first attracted the attention of two school board members at a National School Boards Association meeting. *"There was just something about him,"* board member Annie Roof said at the time.

The Washington Post: [Is Lewis D. Ferebee the leader to close D.C.'s achievement gap? His time in the Midwest may provide clues.](#) (January 27, 2019)

Brandon Brown, chief executive of the Mind Trust, points to city data showing that, overall, test scores rose for students at innovation schools while declining at schools run by the traditional system.

"I would credit Dr. Ferebee's vision and leadership for creating a multitude of partnerships that just weren't there before he got there," Brown said. *"We are very confident that the early results for innovation schools are extremely promising."*

Ken Britt, Senior Vice President and Dean, Educators College, Marian University

"While we are saddened that Dr. Ferebee will be leaving Indianapolis, we wish only the best for him in Washington, DC. Ferebee will be remembered for innovation and taking the necessary steps to ensure the Indianapolis Public Schools system is viable and effective for all young people. What I admire most about Dr. Ferebee is his relentless focus on the students entrusted to his care - even in the face of

tremendous adversity. This is the character of a true leader - one who cares first about the mission of doing whatever necessary to improve the lives of children in our community."

Ontay Johnson, Executive Director at 100 Black Men of Indianapolis

"Civil rights organizations and African American leadership associations in Washington, D.C. will find Dr. Ferebee to be a true partner in their communities and are blessed to have him as chancellor. We strongly and respectfully suggest our brother and sister institutions reach out to their new chancellor in order to forge an impactful and beneficial alliance to help the young men and women in our nation's capital."

Tony Walker, Member, Indiana State Board of Education and School Without Walls Alumni

"He leaves a legacy of achievement at IPS that includes (1) reinventing IPS high schools by offering all students an opportunity to concentrate study in career themed academies, (2) partnering with charter school operators to establish Innovation Network Schools, (3) compensating teachers for expanded leadership responsibilities, and (4) developing a student-based budgeting process that assures funds follow students as they move through the school corporation. These innovations implemented by Dr. Ferebee will produce lifechanging outcomes for Indianapolis public school students for years to come."

###