

2023 - 2024 Chancellor's Parent Advisory Board  
 January 2024  
 Meeting Notes

Board Members in Attendance:

First Name	Last Name	Attendance
Aaron	Hanna	
Ada	Ezeh	X
Ammena	Nazeen	
Beth	Davis	X
Charles	DeSantis	X
Connie	Guevara	X
Dana	Watson	
Dorian	Thomas	X
Ebone	Tyson-El	
Ericka	Mahdi	
Feleece	Mitchell	X
Gabrielle	Holmes	X
Glenda	Diaz	
Jamiel	Dawson	
Jessica	Campos	X
Julius	Terry	
LeSeana	Andrews	X
Lisa	Addison	
Mishaela	Duran	X
Olu	Ajisafe	
Patricia	Price	X
Pauline	Mzava	X
Pepper	Reed	X
Quentin	Long	
Ritu	Upadhyay	
Stephen	Rodriguez	
Suzanne	Schneider	X
Teressa	Walton	
Tasha	Kennedy	
Yolanda	Anderson	X
Yolanda	Powers	X

**SEL activity:** What's your child's favorite book?

- If You Give A Mouse a Cookie
- Don't Let The Pigeon Ride The Bus
- Hair Love
- Where The Wild Things Are
- Little Engine That Could
- The Very Hungry Caterpillar
- Harold and The Purple Crayon

**Chancellor's Q&A Session:**

- **The Capital Commitment 2023-2028 Strategic Plan**
  - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J4GXfMyZ5BI>

Students	Families & Caregivers	Staff
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Expand extracurricular/enrichment opportunities</b></li><li>• Foster more respect &amp; community</li><li>• Foster more student engagement &amp; amplify student voices</li><li>• Improve equity in all schools</li><li>• <b>Provide additional supports for the transition from middle to high schools and after high school opportunities</b></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Increase clubs &amp; extracurricular opportunities</b></li><li>• Improve transparency &amp; communication</li><li>• Further celebrate diversity</li><li>• Increase mental health supports</li><li>• Teach essential life skills</li><li>• Promote teacher retention</li><li>• <b>Enhance college &amp; career readiness supports</b></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Provide additional out-of-school enrichment opportunities</b></li><li>• Include staff further in decision-making</li><li>• Improve staff retention &amp; recruitment</li><li>• Increase mental health supports</li><li>• <b>Provide additional resources &amp; training for success</b></li></ul>

**ONE**  
**EQUITY IMPERATIVE:**  
All DCPS students have access to the **tools, support, and resources** they need to succeed.

**TWO**  
**COMMITMENTS:**  
Value our people.  
Partner with our community.

**THREE**  
**STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:**

**OUR GOALS**

**SUCCEEDING ACADEMICALLY**  
DCPS students are **MATHEMATICALLY STRONG**.  
DCPS students are **READING AND WRITING** across all subjects.

**CONNECTED TO SCHOOLS**  
DCPS students are **SAFE** and have a **SENSE OF BELONGING**.  
DCPS students have **EQUITABLE ACCESS** to opportunities.

**PREPARED FOR WHAT'S NEXT**  
DCPS students **GRADUATE ON TIME**.  
DCPS graduates participate in a **POSTSECONDARY PATHWAY**.

 SUCCEEDING ACADEMICALLY

 CONNECTED TO SCHOOLS

 PREPARED FOR WHAT'S NEXT

- [https://dcpstrong.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/DCPS-Capital-Commitment\\_English.pdf](https://dcpstrong.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/DCPS-Capital-Commitment_English.pdf)

- Inclement Weather and Snow Days are determined the night before if there is considerable precipitation before the evening news, or in the morning. We have two snow days and have used each of the snow days for this school year.
- I would love to see more cultural awareness to ensure that our students feel that sense of belonging.
  - Equity and Inclusion will be covered by one of our colleagues around Becoming.
- Prepared For What's Next – How is DCPS partnering with the Department of Employment Services?
  - Summer Youth Employment Program is a student's first experience to get work experience over the summer with compensation increasing.
  - Internships and apprenticeships are given through DOES, where students can gain college course credit while also getting paid.
  - You can check out the Career Preparation Website here: <https://dcpscarrerready.org/>
- There has been so much emphasis on DCPS having a lack of students and student enrollment is declining. What is DCPS doing to encourage these students to come back to school and to enjoy their learning environment.
  - We have grown over 2,000 students and we hit over 50,000 students.
  - We are the fastest growing in the DMV area.

#### **Secondary Education Presentation:**

- **Objectives:**
  - Become Familiar with Context of Grading Policy Changes
  - Provide Feedback on Grading Policy Decision Points for SY24-25 and beyond
  - Understand Next Steps in Revising the Grading Policy
- **Here is the link to submit written feedback:** <http://publicinput.com/2024gradepolicy>

Explanation below:

The Secondary Grading Policy Revision Process

DCPS is committed to continuous improvement and preparing students for post-secondary success. We're making select changes to the secondary grading policy and want to hear from students, families, and educators to inform what the policy looks like moving forward. Let us know your thoughts by completing the feedback survey by Friday, February 9.

Complete the feedback survey using the links below:

English: [publicinput.com/2024gradepolicy](http://publicinput.com/2024gradepolicy)

Spanish: [publicinput.com/2024gradepolicyspanish](http://publicinput.com/2024gradepolicyspanish)

Amharic: [publicinput.com/2024gradepolicyamharic](http://publicinput.com/2024gradepolicyamharic)

- **Policy Change Options:**

# 1. Late Work

Currently, late work is accepted at any point within the term, and all assignments are due by the end of the term.

DCPS is considering the following options. Which option would you advocate for and why?

- 1) Keep the policy the same
- 2) All assignments due 2 weeks before the end of the term
- 3) Incorporate a midpoint deadline: 5 days before progress reports are due and 5 days before end of term

- It has been really hard, and students are overwhelmed with homework and get it in on time.
- One – 1, Four – 2s, Three – 3s
- The longer you put things off, everything snowballs, where it is hard to get items completed in time. And the reality of real world is that there is a due date.
- There may need to be a balance of the amount of work given for homework.

# 2. Academic Integrity

DCPS does not currently have a specific policy, but Chapter 25 of the DCMR categorizes plagiarism as a tier III behavior that can result in the reduction of grades.

Which of the following should DCPS prioritize when establishing a district-wide academic integrity policy?

- 1) Failing grade for any offense, including inappropriate use of Artificial Intelligence. No opportunity for resubmission.
- 2) Failing grade for any offense but allow resubmission of assignment for partial credit.
- 3) Restorative justice process

- Do students already have a basic understanding of plagiarism?
- Do teachers have access to platforms that can check if a paper is plagiarized?
- 22% option 1, 56% option 2, 22% option 3

### 3. Failure due to Absences (FA)

Currently, students automatically earn an F if they have 30 unexcused absences in any course, including half credit courses. DCPS is considering the following options for school year 2025-2026.

Which option would you advocate for and why?  
Are there other options that you don't see listed?

- 1) Keep the policy the same
- 2) Change the requirements for half credit courses from 30 days to 15 days
- 3) Get rid of this policy altogether

\*Any potential changes to this policy will likely not go into effect until SY25-26 as it will require regulatory change.

- What exactly is a half credit course?
- It really depends how AI might be used. If a student writes an essay and uses AI to see if there arguments or positions are consistent and coherent, would they fail? I think 2 + 3 depends on context.
- Wholeheartedly agree to get rid of this policy because students of color are penalized harshly.
- Focus on the unexcused portion of the absence on the policy and not including the excused absences.
- 17% option 1, 33% option 2, 50% option 3
- Final decisions in April and changes updated for SY24-25
- Questions about excused vs unexcused due to emergency factors and doctor's notes

#### DCPS Becoming:

- Session Goals:
  - Share DCPS approach to educating the whole child and to equity.
  - Learn from parents about what creates a Sense of Belonging
- SEL Opener: What grade did you experience the most joy and fun in school? What made that so?
  - 6<sup>th</sup> grade and doing outdoor learning.
  - Elementary due to the relationships with each of the teachers
- Skills exist in a potential state in all children Waiting to be activated by favorable learning conditions.
- Context – our environment, experience, and relationships – drives our biology, the expression of our genes, and thus our ability to reach our full potential.
- Belonging/Loved Data
  - DCPS administers the Panorama Student Survey each Fall and Spring
  - This Fall, DCPS had:
    - The highest student response rate ever—78%
    - The greatest number of students responding ever
    - 98 schools met the 80% threshold response rate goal—most ever.

- In terms of Loved data, DCPS had:
  - The highest percentage of students reported feeling Loved ever
  - The largest Spring to Fall improvement ever—4 points
  - The largest Fall to Fall improvement ever—5 points
- Work with DC Superior Court, question on sense of belonging and students in the foster care system and want to talk to the judge. Principals are aware of the students with transitional homes, and how are we addressing the needs for students in transitional housing due to family needs or through the foster care system?
  - Pilot schools are checking students every week on belonging and getting an idea of what students are experiencing sooner rather than twice a year through the Panorama student survey.
- What is the ratio of students in high school range that actually complete the Panorama Survey?
  - We had 98 of our 118 schools completing the survey with at least 80%.
  - High school students had the highest response rate compared to past years.

**Monthly Updates:**

- No School on Friday, January 26
- Newcomer Fair Friday, January 26, 10am-3pm at Langdon ES
- MySchoolDC Deadlines
  - February 1 – Application Deadline Grades 9-12
  - March 1 – Application Deadline PK3-Grade 8
  - March 29 – Lottery Results Available
  - April 27 – Enrollment Saturday
  - May 1 – Enrollment Deadline for Matched Students
- Upcoming Parent U - [Parent University/ Universidad para Padres | Eventbrite](#)  
bit.ly/dcpsparentureg

**Post Meeting Survey Responses:**

Ten board members filled out the exit survey.

Question	Average Score
1 Star = Not Good to 5 Star = Very Good	
Please rate the Secondary Education presentation	4.5
Please rate the DCPS Becoming presentation	4.89
How would you rate the meeting overall?	5

**Additional comments from board members on exit survey:**

- “Thanks for the great information and discussion section”
- “Mike is amazing!!”
- “Let's support our children in schools by creating a safe place for them. This is the first step of sense of belonging”
- “I would definitely appreciate getting involved more in the policy discussions. A focus group or any additional times to hash out this work would be good.”
- “More conversation about attendance policy before changing grading policy”