

Supporting Students on the Path to College and Career

DC Public Schools (DCPS) is committed to ensuring that all students are prepared to thrive in college, career, and life. Through proactive student engagement, targeted student supports, and leveraged data and systems, our schools are focused on giving every student the opportunities and support they need to walk across the stage ready for their next phase of life.

Proactive Student Engagement

Early engagement with students helps ensure success from the start:

- **Ninth Grade Academies** improve outcomes for students as they transition from 8th grade and prepare them for high school success by building competencies through an intentional community.
- High school students build real-world skills aligned to in-demand career fields through **NAF Academies, Career and Technical Education programs, and internships.**
- The individualized **Student Guide to Graduation, Career and College** empowers students with information on their progress toward graduation and actionable steps to help them work towards a postsecondary pathway.
- School counselors work with all students to complete transcript reviews, **plan courses aligned with postsecondary interests**, ensure social wellness, and identify necessary mental health supports.

Targeted Student Supports

Our schools educate the whole student by providing both the academic and social emotional resources our students need to thrive inside and outside of the classroom, including:

- **Credit Recovery and Twilight 2.0** give students another opportunity to earn credits towards graduation outside of their regular course schedule in a supportive, personalized environment. In School Year 2019-2020, DCPS expanded Twilight programming to 10 schools, allowing more students to earn necessary credits.
- The **Pathways Program** offers specialized support at 15 high schools to help students get back on track academically. Students create a postsecondary plan and receive social emotional support and resources to overcome obstacles.
- The **New Heights** program supports students who are pregnant and/or parenting through case management, resource coordination, and advocacy.
- **Opportunity Academies** provide a competency-based, self-paced pathway to graduation for students who are academically off-track and may benefit from an alternative setting.
- **Re-engagement Specialists** work to bring students who have disengaged from school back to DCPS. These DCPS staff members provide intensive support and case management to 5th year students and students who have returned to continue their education.

Leveraging Data and Systems

School leaders and staff consistently leverage real-time data to customize support to students. For example:

- **Adjusted Cohort Graduation Rate snapshots and monthly reports** allow schools to monitor student progress trends and individual student data.
- The **Continuous Improvement Framework** provides actionable data about compliance with graduation and promotion policies. Schools use this information to identify and address data anomalies in a timely manner, so all potential graduates are poised for success.