



Dear Friends,

Today marks my first day as Chancellor of DC Public Schools (DCPS), and I'm excited and honored to be here! Growing up, I had a lot of first days – I attended 10 schools before graduation – and I still carry with me that sense of hope and anticipation that comes with a new beginning.

And while today is my first day leading DCPS, it's a day like any other for the remarkable students, staff, and families whose commitment and support have already made DCPS the fastest-improving and most-watched school district in the country. I'm eager to get to know the DCPS community, and learn from you where we need to work even harder to give every one of our young people the world-class education they deserve.

My career has been built around improving equity through education. For the past three years, I led the Oakland Unified School District, and I served as an Assistant Superintendent in Denver Public Schools before that. I've been a Superintendent, a principal, and a teacher. I've coached football and track, and mentored speech and debate clubs.

The fact is I love school. I love seeing young people learn and discover their talents. I want every student in DCPS to love school too. My personal achievements are the result of hard work and public school teachers who challenged and believed in me. I know firsthand what's possible through educational opportunity, and have a deep passion for making sure that schools are places where students, families, and communities feel welcomed and see their values reflected.

Over the next few months I'll be visiting campuses, meeting with educators and parents, and listening to stakeholders about your vision for schools. It's important to me to be smarter tomorrow than I am today, which simply means that the information I learn through these engagements helps inform decisions I make as a leader. We will provide more information soon about how you can share your ideas.

Our mantra in DCPS has been that we can do this, but we can't do it alone. That's true now more than ever. I'm counting on you, the DCPS community, to voice your hopes, be honest about your concerns, and celebrate our success. Above all, I look forward to partnering with you to make that success happen.

Respectfully,

Antwan Wilson
Chancellor, DC Public Schools