



August 2017

Dear DCPS Families,

Welcome to School Year 2017-2018! For those of you who are joining the DC Public Schools (DCPS) family for the first time, and those of you who are returning to DCPS, we are honored that you have chosen a DCPS school for your child.

In my first months as Chancellor, I met with more than 3,000 parents, students, community members, and educators to hear their ideas for the future of DCPS, and I visited every one of our 115 schools to see what is working and where we can spur more improvement. Those ideas are now the foundation of the new DCPS Strategic Plan, which will launch next month and guide our district's work for the next five years.

For DCPS to become a place where every single child can reach his or her full potential, our students need schools where they can struggle and know that they are still smart, where they can make mistakes and know that they are still loved. By focusing on social and emotional development, along with academics, DCPS will give young people the foundation they need to succeed in school and in life.

I believe that parents are experts in their children, and partners in their learning. Like you, I'm a proud DCPS parent—one who is convinced in our children's capacity for greatness. We hope to engage with you in every way we can this year to ensure your child thrives. I encourage you to get involved at your child's school. Their best chance for success comes with your support. Also, please follow DCPS on social media ([@dcpublicschools](#) [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#)) and share your thoughts. You can follow me on Twitter [@DCPSChancellor](#).

I also invite you and your child to our first **DCPS Back-To-School Block Party** on Saturday, September 9 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Ron Brown College Preparatory High School. There will be special guests, food, opportunities to learn more about the future of DCPS, and of course, lots of activities for students.

We are DCPS, and together, we can do this! I wish your family a wonderful school year.

Respectfully,

Antwan Wilson
Chancellor, DC Public Schools