

# A CAPITAL COMMITMENT



Strategic Plan **2017**



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

YEAR THREE IN REVIEW

# A CAPITAL COMMITMENT:

Our goals are ambitious. Based on the hopes and dreams of DCPS stakeholders, these goals help us align our resources and measure our success.

## Better Schools for All Students by 2017

A Capital Commitment is the five-year strategic plan that sets ambitious targets for the future of DC Public Schools. Since the launch of this plan in School Year 2012–13, students across the city are doing better than ever in reading and math, more students are graduating on time, students are enjoying school, and enrollment has reached a six-year high. As we continue on the path toward meeting these goals, we are expanding successful academic programs and focusing on educating the whole student, including providing social and emotional support.

**OUR PURPOSE** is to ensure that every DCPS school provides a world-class education that prepares ALL of our students, regardless of background or circumstance, for success in college, career, and life.

## Where We're Going

DCPS is on the right track. In School Year 2015–16, we are working harder than ever to accelerate our progress. Our work is aligned with the rigorous Common Core State Standards, the set of learning standards that states nationwide have adopted to prepare students for college and careers. We have the most effective teaching force DCPS has ever seen—our educators are striving to ensure that every student reaches his or her full potential. And we're investing heavily in high-quality, exciting academic content and extracurricular activities that will engage students' hearts, not just their heads.

**We are DCPS, and we can do this!**

# Strategic Plan 2017

# YEAR THREE IN REVIEW

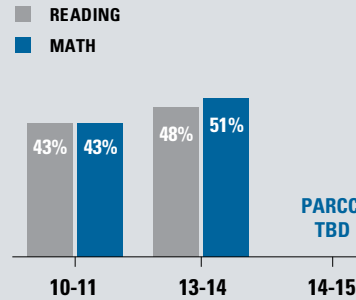


## IMPROVE ACHIEVEMENT RATES

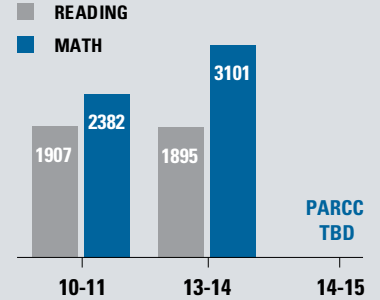
## GOAL 1

At least **70%** of our students will be **proficient in reading and math** by 2016-17. By 2016-17, we will **double the number of advanced students** to more than 3,800 in reading and more than 4,700 in math.

### PROFICIENCY RATES



### ADVANCED STUDENTS



Last spring, DCPS switched to a more rigorous, Common Core-aligned test called the PARCC. While we wait for PARCC scores to be released, we know that we're on the right track. Results from the National Assessment of Educational Progress confirm that DCPS is the fastest-improving urban school district in the country.



## CORNERSTONES

We know that children rise to the expectations that we set for them. That's why we're ensuring that all students in DCPS, no matter where they live or go to school, have access to exciting, rigorous academic experiences that will accelerate their learning. This year all students in DCPS, across every subject and grade, will participate in the same hands-on activities and memorable lessons through our **Cornerstones Initiative**. For example, all 2<sup>nd</sup> graders in DCPS will learn to ride a bicycle this year, and all chemistry students will build their own batteries.



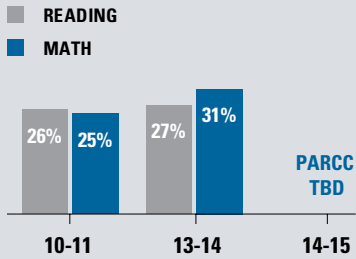


## INVEST IN STRUGGLING SCHOOLS

# GOAL 2

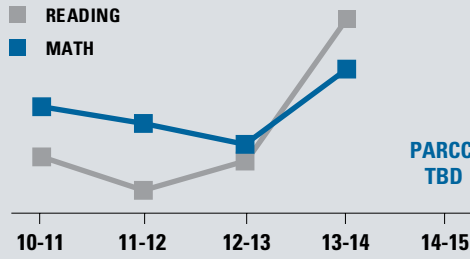
Our 40 lowest-performing schools will **increase proficiency rates by 40 percentage points** by 2016-17. DCPS has seen improvement across the district, with a few schools showing remarkable progress.

### PROFICIENCY

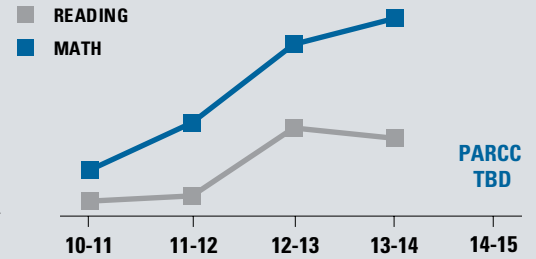


### SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS

#### Drew Elementary School



#### Kelly Miller Middle School



### EMPOWERING MALES OF COLOR

Young men of color are the lowest-performing subgroup across DCPS. To help these students reach their fullest potential, we launched the Empowering Males of Color initiative to enhance the student experience, increase achievement, and prepare our males of color for college, careers, and life beyond DCPS. A key part of this effort is recruiting, training, and matching 500 adult mentors with 500 male students of color.

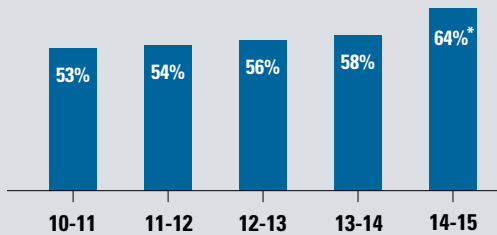


## INCREASE GRADUATION RATE

# GOAL 3

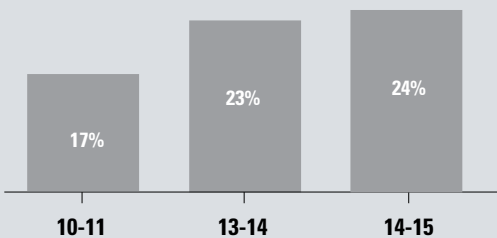
By 2016-17, at least **75% of entering 9<sup>th</sup> graders** will graduate from high school in **four years**.

### HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATE

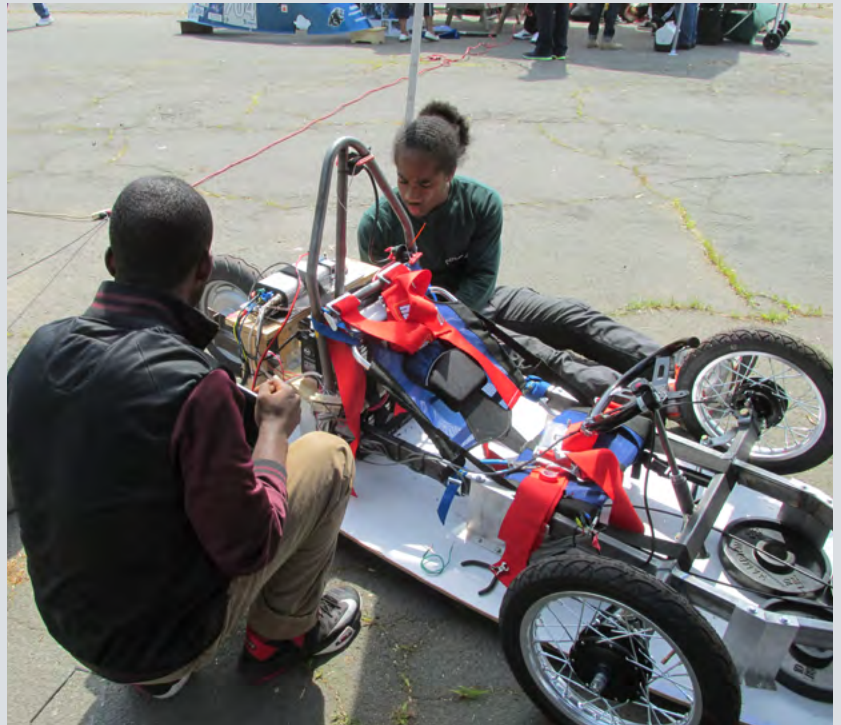


\*Projected

### ADVANCED PLACEMENT PARTICIPATION



As part of our investment in rigor, we expanded AP course offerings in DCPS. This year, all high schools offer at least six AP courses, giving students access to high-level academic content and the opportunity to earn college credit while still in high school. Student performance on AP exams is also rising.



### CAREER ACADEMIES

DCPS operates eight Career Academies in Engineering, Hospitality, and Information Technology, with three additional Academies opening next year. Career Academies provide opportunities for high school students to gain real-world experience through mentoring and paid internships, and help them make choices about their careers and futures.

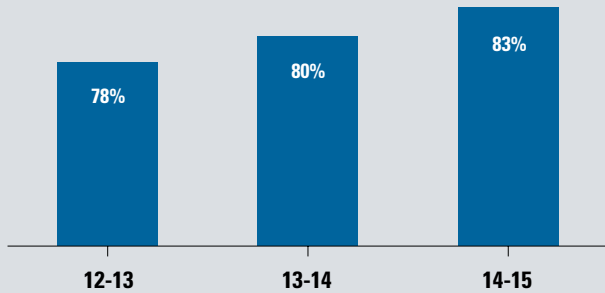


## IMPROVE SATISFACTION

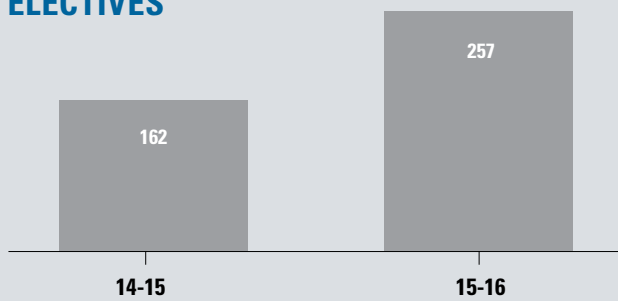
## GOAL 4

By 2016-17, **90%** of students will say they like their school.

### STUDENT SATISFACTION



### ELECTIVES



This fall, our high schools are offering more than 90 new elective courses, including, Ceramics, Debate, African-American Literature, Cinematic Arts, Choir, and Journalism.

### ATHLETICS

DCPS believes athletics are an important part of the high school experience. We hired 14 new high school athletics coordinators to manage sports and after-school programs, and invested more than \$750,000 in new athletic equipment.

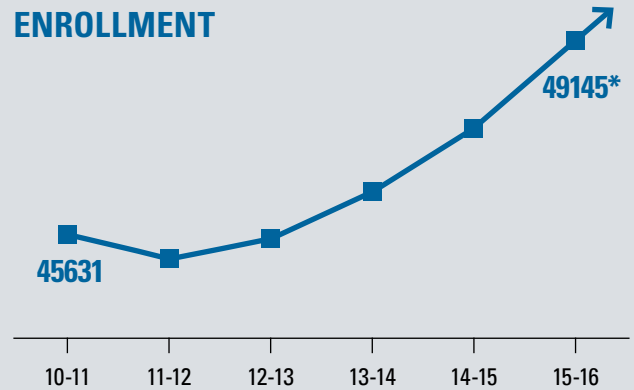


## INCREASE ENROLLMENT

## GOAL 5

DCPS will **increase its enrollment** by 2016-17 to more than 50,000 students.

### ENROLLMENT



*\*Projected Enrollment.*

DCPS enrollment has grown for the past four years, reversing a decades-long trend of decline. In 2014, DCPS exceeded its own goal to increase enrollment to 47,000 students. Our new goal is to reach 50,000 students by 2017.

### NEW SCHOOLS

Because of our district's rapid growth, DCPS opened new campuses across the city this year.

