

In Spring 2017, DCPS held meetings in all 8 wards of DC to introduce Chancellor Wilson, engage stakeholders around the future of DCPS, and seek input that will help shape the next DCPS Strategic Plan. The feedback from these sessions is below.

How can DCPS promote excellence and equity?	What actions are important to ensure all students and families feel welcomed?	What do you hope to see as you walk into a DCPS classroom/school?	This is your DC Public School system. What represents success for your child/yourself, your school, and/or DCPS over the next 5-10 years?
Abandon the tendency to relate to DCPS by ward and staff having conversations by feeder systems and manage by leaders. Examine how they can make stronger. Feeders straddle wards.	Bullying is a problem at many schools. DCPS often turns a blind eye to physical violence and extreme teasing. Special cliques that perpetuate these problems.	A variety of high quality resources district-wide and students engaged in using them	A school system that rivals private school offerings in teaching and learning.
Adequate training for teachers	Come, sit, and observe a class survey from parents to make sure we're meeting the needs of students.	An environment that welcomes all learning styles and encourages artistic expression.	A school system where there is a rapid acceleration toward closing the achievement gap and the enthusiasm gap
Better organization of class schedules and smooth transitions between classes	Communicate with parents and build cohorts and community	Busy kids	Acquire the field at rear of School Without Walls
Build a culture and a system that promotes inclusion, growth, and student leadership.	Consistent and comprehensive communication between school and home	Computers updated to be current. Technology such as smart boards. Knowledgeable and friendly teachers.	All students learning at grade level.
Build a culture and a system that promotes inclusion, growth, and student leadership.	Ditch the medal detectors	Engaged children and engaged teachers.	All students proficient in reading and math at grade level - at a minimum!
Challenging curriculum for all students	Encourage short parent-led explanations of holidays (without emphasizing faith aspects) since Christmas inevitably dominates despite efforts to be secular	Engagement.	Closing of the achievement gap
College prep/AP/IB diploma at alt HS (+ dual HS/college enrollment)	Even parents need to be educated about what's possible and what is not feasible.	Enough space for all. What do we do about overcrowded schools? Teachers who are connecting with the students academically as well as on a social-emotional level.	Dramatically increasing percent of students proficient in reading and math and virtually eliminating portion "below basic"
Community (Wards 7 and 8)	Events that build community	Examples of art, science projects, and other student work (including athletic medals) and lots of happy, hands-on learning with chatter and kids teaching each other.	Equal enrichment opportunities for all

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Consider options for encouraging HSAs (PTAs) to share financial resources (from wealthier areas to less-resourced areas) e.g sister schools	Families can invite teachers to their home, to treat them to lunch/dinner/tea and get to know teacher/family to show appreciation for teacher's efforts	First impressions matter. The school office sets the tone for the building.	Equally excellent facilities across the city
Create schools that teachers love to work in, students love to attend, and parents have confidence in.	Families need to be listened to and a need to ammend needs.	Front office happy & pleasant	Great high schools
Diversity and bullying training for students and teachers	Focus on neighborhood schools and feeder schools - community starts at home.	Happy, focused, and motivated students, teachers, staff, etc.	Increase in enrollment.
Elementary School/Middle School exposure to computer science.	Give parents opportunities to be involved in all major decisions.	I hope to feel that teachers, students, and parents love their school.	Increasing the number of kids staying in DCPS from high achieving elementary schools
English Language learners and dual language programs.	Give parents opportunities to be involved in all major decisions.	I hope to see teachers, students, and parents enthusiastically engaged in learning activities.	Kids staying in DCPS from PK on up
Ensure all kids + teachers have engaging learning with impact like study abroad or dual enrollment	Going to different wards and being friendly	Not just signs on all doors saying "must enter through main entrance", but show me where main entry is and make it distinctive.	Kids staying in DCPS.
Equal access to well-rounded services for families and students, then address the achievement and growth gap.	Inclusion specialists.	Open and friendly staff and leadership.	Please keep PARCC - it's a good standard for across-board measure of what's working and what can be improved
Equally excellenent facilities and staff.	International night for dinner?	Organized school across the board.	Success in careers, military, or college.
Equity in out-of-class activities (athletics, arts and music, language, and education support).	Make sure all events are hosted at times convenient to parents.	Safe environment and positive school culture; rigorous academic program; culturally responsive classrooms; high quality instruction; strong leadership (Admin)	Target underperforming racial/ethnic/regional groups
Establish and maintain high standards for students/teachers	Meet the student at her level.	State of the art, well-maintained facility, quality staff, academic rigor, and social-emotional development	Technology such as use of Google Chrome

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Focus on supportive actions, less on testing.	More home-school partnerships	State-of-the-art learning technology	Understanding of what partnerships with nonprofits mean and what they bring to the table/ how they enrich the city.
Get rid of emphasis on testing and punishment.	Open, transparent and welcoming school administration team	Students are engaged, not fighting in the halls.	Understanding that schools are community anchors
Hold schools accountable for setting school improvement goals and regularly collect/share progress	Opportunities for parent engagement and feedback; Conferences and communications from teachers.	Students coming to school rested safe, fed, and ready to learn. Yes, I am a teacher.	
Increase equitable access to arts education east of the river	Opportunity for input/easy + open lines of communication with teachers and admin.'	Students happily and fully engaged and participating	
Increase equitable access to arts education east of the river	Parent-teacher conferences; Parent coffees; emails; updates from teachers to parents (weekly); Conference call options to all meetings	Supplies: teachers should have what they need and not what donors choose.	
Make it easier, facilitate, and give time for staff to share best practices between schools. The biggest advantage DCPS has over charter schools is scale - but school staff often are disconnected from peers even within their own school. Listen to all school staff, including custodians to really understand what is happening in schools.	Parent/teacher associations representative of the school demographic.	Teachers being allowed to be creative. Students engaged and if they are not, some effort to determine why. Maybe there's home/ neighborhood problem. Small classes for at-risk students.	
Make it easier, facilitate, and give time for staff to share best practices between schools. The biggest advantage DCPS has over charter schools is scale - but school staff often are disconnected from peers even within their own school. Listen to all school staff, including custodians to really understand what is happening in schools.	Performances, events, ways to get involved - see John Eaton Elementary School for examples; Deal middle School field trips; International nights; Math night.	Teachers with the necessary skills to teach ALL students in the classroom. Teachers who know what they are teaching and how to teach the age group they are responsible for guiding.	
More support for students/teachers/parents	Positive customer service	Technology/computers	

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One idea: don't have early childhood teachers grades be the reasons of their "growth" over the year.	Programming must include all students	Welcoming teachers; Inviting classroom with different tools/materials to engage the kids - whatever the teachers need	
PARCC	Provide services needed	Work with paper and books, not just screens; Appropriate temperature - not overheated in Winter and overcooled in Fall/Spring; Less sugar and fat in school meals.	
Please be willing to see excellence demonstrated in diverse expressions	Regular and frequent 2-way school community communication		
Promote responsibility and ensure students and families feel welcome and have a stake in their communities future.	Some specific decisions devoted to parents, or at least clear, honest, role for parents made clear		
Promote responsibility and ensure students and families feel welcome and have a stake in their communities future.	Take them as they are, with respect and patience. Do not condescend. Greet students with love and enthusiasm while not accepting nonsense. Post student work on the walls		
Provide differentiated learning in english + mathematics.	Teacher ecaluation (through facilitated parent engagement (classroom shadowing, etc.)		
Redo system for funding local school, with genuine staff, parent and community participation. Review program offerings at all schools for comparable not same access. Use choice for access, rather than escape. Genuine extra resources for at-risk students. Treat teachers as professionals.	Teacher home visits to all families to develop relationships and trust		
Reward excellence with greater resources			

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Same opportunities for all across all elementary, middle, and high schools. Everyone should have everything at their home district (neighborhood) school. All schools should provide to all students at the same level. Your zip code should not dictate your education.			
Science curriculum.			
Social-emotional learning should be prominent for all children and especially for the ones with no support at home.			
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STEAM & community partnerships; Celebrations of success; Identify outliers - schools doing it right; Address the issue of income inequity. How do some schools do well by the same economically disadvantaged kids that others fail?			
Strong support for school leaders and teachers			
Support teachers, parents, and students - above all.			
Technology money			
Technology: using chrome for teachers adding instruction for promoting excellence and equity. Providing excellence culture, inclusiveness, and same quality and experience across all wards, valuing stakeholders and parents.			
Urge HSA to share resources with other HSAs.			