

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?
Age appropriate morning meetings need to come back. MORE RECESS, MORE MOVEMENT, LESS TESTING.	A nurse and social worker.	A classroom designed to be beautiful and efficient enough to inspire students to create their best work; students engaged in real world analysis.	A system that is responsive and reliable.
Allow school flexibility and autonomy in instructing students.	All students being encouraged to participate.	A full time nurse in every school!	Accurate projections = adequate budget.
Ample funding for support services.	All students not just the middle 80-80% engaged and learning	A nurse.	Addressing all levels-including advanced- all the way from PK-12
Anticipate the need for expanded classrooms for Pre-K. I will help organize volunteer tutors from the neighborhood.	Attention to multilingual families/students with hiring practices.	A rising tide lifts all boats! Let's find the highest common denominators	After school programs.
Arts, music, PE at all schools.	Better communication.	Active learning at each student's level.	Aligned programing and content across ES-MS-HS
Begin to transition into mandatory parent meetings.	Class sizes that are appropriate and allow individualized attention	Active lifestyles.	All graduates are proficient or better in reading and math
Better long-range/strategic planning for capacity.	Classes need to be designed for different students needs.	Appropriately sized classroom that enable educators to focus on students needs - both those that struggle and that need advanced learning.	Art education and exposure beyond afterschool programming and beyond 1 high school
Better prepare students and teachers for classes.	Clean and Well- Maintained facilities	Cell phone use is out of control at Wilson HS. Also misbehavior and cursing and class disruptions seem to have no consequences.	Being able to stay in DCPS without feeling you have to assess almost every year.
Building renovations and maintenance need to be done equitably.	Communication.	Challenge and push children to succeed. Let's not settle for mediocrity.	Chancellor Wilson THANK YOU for saying that you are going to put the social emotional needs first. How can we put money where our mouth is?

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By not assuming that one, inflexible, top down administration imposed system is the only way to do it.	Creative space!	Consistency - happy students/happy teachers studying consistent curriculum and meeting consistent expectations year in, year out.	Children exposed to a wide variety of experiences and supported and challenged appropriately.
Coherence with city resources.	DCPS has tremendous disparities across race, economic situation, etc.	Consistency in staffing!	Classroom experiences that challenge the right level, and encourage learning, critical thinking and problem solving
Combat the bigotry of low expectations.	Different languages in school materials, a warm welcome to all and simple financial aid for all extra-curricular and HSA activities.	Culturally and delicious foods served in the school cafeterias	College and career readiness
Connection between school and community to build model students.	Different types of events.	Diversity.	College completion. How certain are we that we're moving some of our students out of poverty?
Create a sense of community and equality	Diversity task-force.	Diversity.	Community schools able to accommodate all students needs. High quality education that prepares them for the next level.
Cursive Writing.	Diversity training so that staff are aware of cultural norms.	Eliminating the out of boundary attendance policy	Complete modernizations everywhere that needs it.
DC Public schools and the DC City government must recognize that equity is directly related to family and community.	Diversity!	Empowered, energized educators who aren't beaten down - and kids that are ready to learn.	Confidence and school safety.
Deeper social and economic issues are affecting equity across DCPS.	eliminate sexist dress code.	Enable resources across all of the wards.	Continuing restorations and modernizations.
Define our terms: what is excellence and what is equity. Urban settings usually struggle, but we should praise our growth, but also ask why.	Engaged enthusiastic and creative teachers	Engaged and purposeful students. School pride / community pride.	DCPS - give new initiatives time to mature before introducing other new initiatives.
Don't overly sacrifice one for the other.	Engaged students. Positive relationships	Engaged positive education.	Desire and enthusiasm to go to school.
DROP PARCC	Engaged, enthusiastic learners and educators	Engaged students and rigorous classwork.	Diversity across the district lottery for all grades

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Each child needs to be challenged.	Engagement and Active Learning	Engaged students and teachers.	Each child gets what they need.
Empower principals and educators to actually meet the needs of THEIR students.	Engagement doesn't necessarily mean that parents come to events.	Engaged students engage at their work station.	Engaged students that create a community.
Encourage empathy across all levels.	Ensure safety everywhere.	Engagement.	Equipped to be a global citizen.
Engagement. Better curriculum.	Ensure safety for students. Need to make real progress in helping make spanish speaking and non-english speaking families feel welcome.	Engagement.	Every kid valued, even Ward 3 Kids!
Equity does not equal one size fits all. Please give our schools the flexibility to do what is best for the students and staff in their school. Thank you!	Ensure security.	Every student, at every level, including advanced levels, challenged and engaged.	Genuine service learning participation. Steady increase in graduation rates. Bigger for arts education
Every student counts! Fix your bad enrollment numbers every year	Ethnic Diversity	Excited students, well stocked, classroom management.	High quality mentoring for all teachers.
Excellence? What is that? Equity? Define?	Facilities Maintenance	Focus on improving quality and leadership at Hardy to help overcrowding	High standards and hard work, pays off
Extracurricular partnerships motivate active learning and helps with school climate.	Family should follow-up with their children's classes.	Friendly classroom environment.	Higher achievement on SAT
Focus is on standardized tests and DARCC in schools, preparation time in class detracts from curriculum and extra-curriculars including art, music, and sports.	Focus and engaged students enthusiastic teachers, involved parents, and communities	Full time nurse at every school.	Higher achievement on standardized tests
Frequent/ consistent communication. Weekly enews; teachers should be required to respond to email within a week or less	Get more parents involved.	Full-time nurse in every school.	Holistic approach - Plenty of history, science, foreign language, arts and music, PE, etc. - Don't focus exclusively on ELA/MATH - teach those via interesting multidisciplinary exploration.

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Help bridge the gap between downtown and the local school in regard to special education	Good communication between families and the schools.	Full-time nurse.	I want DCPS to engage and interest my high-achieving student to push beyond just 'getting an A' - without becoming a snob.
If we are putting kids first, we need to consider Maslow's hierarchy of needs. Food, Health, Mental Health, Learning. We need nurses.	Good communications from the school.	Group discussion.	I want my child prepared for college and career. I don't have confidence right now that DCPS is doing that. DCPS needs to stop looking for quick fixes. Put in the work to get good long term results.
Invest disproportionately in at risk environments	Harming administrators available to discuss needs and concerns of parents.	Happy students and teachers who are supported.	I want to see both the academic and technology grow with current standards - even better get ahead of the growth.
Language, diversity among staff. Signage in multiple languages	Honors and AP courses for those who want to be challenged.	Happy teachers supported by administration.	I would like to see the most effective school leaders and educators spread out across the school system.
Lead from DCPS Central instead of leaving principals to lead alone leading to inequalities across schools.	Honors programs that challenge and meet students needs.	High expectations and support for all students' achievement and behavior	Improved achievement in standardized test scores.
Mentorship, lower classmen welcomed by upperclassmen. New families welcomes to school community by experienced families	Kids on the playground/ outside (esp elementary)	High quality education for all students	In five years we'll be finished. It's been a wild adventure all the way and a more foreseeable, calm process would always be welcomed.
More flexibility	Little kids should play	I hope to see more students excited to be there and less of a gap between social dominance (predominantly black students) and academic success (predominantly white students).	Increase at risk funding and accountability at those funds
More flexibility for individuals.	Mandates like LEAP must be funded. The racial gap in test scores is alarming and needs to be explained and addressed.	I like to see a clear, organized, quiet but happy environment.	Increase enrollment. Closing the achievement gap.
More sports!	Math should not override Science.	Inclusive messaging. Continue investment.	Increase international exchange / exposure for students.

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Need more balance.	Meet BASIC needs for ALL students - get BACK TO BASICS everywhere.	Individualized learning opportunities based on interest and competency	Increased parental participation across system
Need more SPED support staff - too much focus on other areas.	More age appropriate social emotional schedules for kids.	Integrity is not pushing Ward 3 to help us move forward.	It would be great if teachers were trained in the affect of students environment with their education.
Need to see the value and effectiveness of the additional dollars that are being used for at-risk funding.	More outreach to families.	Joy and rigor	Less busy work for homework. There is too much homework at Deal.
No bullying	More special-ed support.	Joy! If you have that, then rigor will come....	Less emphasis on teacher evaluation and test scores.
No cuts of specialized-ed classes.	Need supports to help parents of students with special needs navigate the system.	Joy. Kids loving what they are doing/learning.	More time for play
One way is not to cut specialized instruction hours for children with IEP.	No Aspen!! Better system, better organized, better and earlier staff training	Kids are engaged - lots of learning groups. Atmosphere of respect where all are listening to each other.	Move away from testing and towards portfolios/passion projects.
Overcrowded schools do not have enough money, neither do under enrolled schools.	No embarrassment of language barriers.	Male teachers. Engaged young men. Full student engagement.	My kids/ niece blossoming into a thriving young adult who fully lives her purpose in life
Prepare students and if necessary utilize summer programs to prepare students.	No matter what school you are at, students are all learning the same thing. Get/ Create a curriculum guide	More career tech and vocational programs	Not just testing.
Prevented by heavy structure.	Not 30 Kids crammed in a trailer	More PLAY in ECE.	Open environment.
Promotes a voice from every ethnic group.	One person speaking	More support for extracurricular activities	Partial home-school programs. 3 or 4 day school week, reduced school calendar
Provide accurate multi-year enrollment projections and provide plausible solutions for overcrowding.	Our schools are welcoming to air families.	Movement (not everyone at a desk). Standing desks, engagement.	Participation in sports should not be based on GPA

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Provide students with high quality professional educators and administrators. Hold students and professionals to high expectations.	Passionate and Inclusive group discussions	Multiple languages.	Passionate kids not only focused on tests and grades but learning.
Reduce class sizes.	Principals are critical!	Orderly, happy children moving throughout the school. Mutual respect of all. I'd also like to see all equipment up to date and functioning properly.	Post high school graduation - Evaluating systems in their adulthood and measuring their success.
Serve high-performing students and their families with as much focus as under-performing schools and communities.	Protect students from students who aren't getting their needs met.	Overemphasis on testing - Need wiggle room to adjust curriculum. Teachers need flexibility with the schedule. They need to use more common sense around schedule.	Pre-k 3/4 programs.
Set standards and maintain them. Recognize publicly achievements of students across the population.	Provide equitable facilities across all schools.	Parents and community are engaged at school.	Question the metric for achievement gap.
Set the example at the top. What does equity mean in this context?	Respect for the teachers / adult speaker	Schools without trailers. As the city grows and retains residents, schools have to be a part of the conversation.	Real growth in all the wards to fill under capacity schools.
Small classrooms. Adequate resources.	Responsive teacher and administrators.	Smiling faces, kids wanting to learn, social workers, health care clinics.	Real honors classes in the 9th Grade. An option, not uniformed honors
Smaller class sizes.	School administrators being friendly and helpful. This is not the case at Wilson. Administrators love to say no to parents and students before they even hear the question.	Smiling teachers and kids engaged in learning and character development (social / emotional).	Reduced class sizes (More teachers)
Smaller class sizes. More personal attention.	School safety.	Social Skills.	Resource equity across all wards.
Social emotional support.	Seasoned teachers in High School (Specifically)	Strong and consistent support from extra-curricular activity assist in active learning in the classroom	School should be challenging and allow students to grow.
Special-ed schools need sufficient resources.	Severe overcrowding must stop.	Strong community partnerships and programming	Schools with enrollment that is spread across the city so that schools are not over or under crowded.

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Standardization is the lazy approach to achieving equity. Arts, music, PE should be at every school. PE everyday.	Smaller schools; better access to teachers.	Support community schools, and shape the wealth	Solutions for overcrowding
Strong focus on writing - The ability for students to build convincing arguments with supporting evidence and fluency of english language.	Streamlined or consistent communication.	Support our teachers	Strong Reading and writing skills
Support students EOTR. Experienced principals.	Stress teamwork!	Teachers engaging the students in the classroom.	Students learning happy. Teachers and administrators enjoying their work
Supporters.	Students feel physically; feel safe emotional; feel safe learning.	Teachers that feel empowered because they are treated as professionals and have the capability to see a child's individual needs and address them.	Students love to learn and gain skills for life (including exercise, healthy acting, interacting w/ others)
Teach the children in front of us; stop comparing kids from social economics.	Students should be treated and supported equally.	Textbook s and books in general.	Students should be emotionally intelligent leaders.
Teachers need contract and to be treated fairly. All students need to be met, at all levels. Extra help for kids who are below and above grade level. We need gifted and talented programs.	Support family engagement opportunities.	Useful use of time.	Success needs to be success for students that need an extra push/challenge.
The temporary housing facility in Ward 3, to be built by 2019, will house 50 families, with appropriately 100 children. Their elementary and Pre K needs will be partially met by John Eaton. DCPS Should	Supportive, no punitive, response to infractions of nukes	Visually stimulating educational displays. Sanitary and well maintained facilities. Respectful behavior and discourse.	Teachers to feel like they are treated like professionals.
True community engagement.	Teacher / parent relationships.	Welcoming staff and ethnic diversity involves the school system.	Technology refresh program across the system (funded by central office)
True community engagement.	To encourage community amongst parents in order to best support their students and the community.	Well maintained facilities welcoming staff high behavioral standards (and dress code).	That confidence across the schools is similar. Higher bar and more resources for kids above grade level.

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Want all students to have access to enrichment with a wide diversity of students encouraged to take AP/Honors courses.	Transportation - out-of-boundary. Teacher evaluations - Involve parents.		That economic diversity of DCPS will share my sm's life forever
Weighted per pupil funding that follows each student and greater funding for at-risk students.	Uniformity in the upkeep and maintenance		The best students stay and go to great universities.
Well supported teachers. Great teachers. Rigorous curriculum.	Variety of extracurricular programs.		The continuity existence of a neighborhood school system.
What is your plan to help our most troubled students? Suspensions don't work. No suspensions are worse!	Welcoming administration.		The next level: are kids prepared for college and career?
Whole Child.	Welcoming front office staff.		The superintendent on Board of PARCC is a problem/conflict.
Why are trailers considered as school capacity	Working Computer for each child		Top notch writing, reading, math and analytical skills.
			Trailers are not considered capacity!
			Well-resourced schools.