

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?
Actual opportunities at "Opportunity Academies." Vocational training, apprenticeships, internships.	Across the board language access. An effective, accessible feedback system for community and parents to provide towards schools and DCPS.	A stimulating environment, small groups engaging in learning	A high graduation rate and yearly improvement in all DCPS departments.
Advocate for excellence	Be more aggressive in assisting students/families where there are issues.	Cohesion, energy, and responsibility	A student who is happy is excited to learn. Provide training to teachers to move to others areas within the district so we retain them yet prevent burnout.
All schools should look the same (buildings) Promoting class sizes. DCPS has smaller class sizes. Communication should be taken into account	Better communicating about school level changes to parents	Computers, wifi, financial literacy, removal of metal detectors	Accountability at central office
By advocating excellence, meaning giving compliments, sharing that you care, giving positive feedback on graduating, staying on a good life's path, and future things ahead in life.	Clear sense of belonging for all students and families	Engaged students hands-on learning. Relevant coursework.	Aligning high school criteria to college readiness
By incorporating more classes that teach students important life skills that they will need and definitely be able to use post graduation . (i.e. financial literacy classes, and trade classes)	Communication (good/bad) between parents and educators	Happy kids and clean facilities	Better computers and athletics
By making school a place you want to be. Trying to shift the perspective of the student to I need an education to I want an education	Communication to parents and not relying on students to share information	Happy kids!	Common core. Vocational education brought back into schools
By providing more programs that interest students.	Communication. Some schools have no PTA- how can we help schools engage parents more? Legal/ Procedural PTA help? Help parents feel welcome and equal rights for the community.	High energy in students and staff. Diverse student body and teaching staff	Consistency of staff in the school would indicate success and promote it. Promotion of extra-curriculars that engage and strengthen student achievement in all areas.

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Children need to see themselves reflected in the curriculum so they can succeed.	Constructive criticism	I hope to see a positive school culture where all stakeholders have a voice.	DCPS must incorporate vocational training in all schools. Students need options, not every child will attend college, but every student needs to be able to make a living.
DC Public Schools can promote excellence and equality by exceeding high standards from parents, students and teachers.	DCPS must recruit school leaders (chancellor, superintendents, principals, and assistant principals)	I hope to see a room full of students eager to learn being taught by a teacher equally eager to teach	Going to college with a high GPA. Feeling connected to their school community. Having alternatives beside college/ support around it
DCPS can promote excellence and equity by paying teachers a fair wage as well as allow teachers to utilize their talents and skills to educate students.	DCPS should have more events for the students and families	I hope to see professionals who enjoy teaching and are eager to share knowledge with the children. A principal who leads by example and sets the high standard and good morale for the teachers to follow.	Graduate rate, aligning high school curriculum with college
DCPS should allow for students who are falling behind to have a separate class online to make up for the class.	Develop a culture that recognizes the humanity of each student. Develop a culture of inclusiveness, respect, and honest engagement.	I want to see students actually engage in classroom discussions. I also want the classroom to be fun and interesting	I believe there should be classes that the students actually want to take; classes that will benefit them in their future choice careers.
Diversity. Uniformity of services across the city. Diversity resources to invest in areas who need it more.	Events at the school. (Family), Staff in the community	I would love to see better computers, wifi, and technology in general in DCPS schools.	improvement in the graduation rate.
Embed magnet programs in comprehensive high schools	feedback with students/parents good or bad to show how much you are concerned.	Joy as the children learn, less negative energy, peace	increased enrollment, diverse enrollment. Students graduating; ready to compete in college and careers.
Embracing other cultures	Greeting everyone! Getting rid of metal detectors. Clean Safe school building. Alternative to suspension and exploitation	Kids engaged in classroom instructions. Teachers teaching lesson with structure and direction	Internationally prepared
Encouraging diversity amongst staff, more strong males on staff, mentoring programs on campus, and encouraging students to take pride in their schools and neighborhoods.	Having a unified vision of a welcoming atmosphere. Taking action with student satisfaction.	Larger libraries in classroom	More students enrolled in college

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Equity in funding, ending discrimination policies in DCPS, paper training for security guards/ SROs	Hold meetings where the parents and children come to the school and interact in building skills with staff.	More teachers willing to show and give efforts to students rather than get a check.	Preparing the youth to navigate their way through life post HS graduation.
Excellence needs to be advocated	I feel like DCPS schools already has a very welcoming feel to it, however it can be improved through removing metal detectors and police from schools.	Order. Discipline. Respect. Controlled Environment. Students engaging in learning	Promoting and excelling kids that are able willing to learn. Provide all schools with adequate technology.
Full audit of specialized instruction office	Language access, and not just inviting parents into schools when something goes wrong.	Principal/administration that know students by name or need.	Resourcing in response to needs. Clear focus on growth and proficiency. Focus on mindfulness
Funding, data, student support, family support, and specific programs	Matrix for customer service/ school climate. How we feel is social emotional. Staff wellness	Safe and clean environment student work displayed student achievements displayed.	Seeing growth in my childrens comprehension and knowledge as they into each level would represent success form.
Giving teachers a pay increase and effective tools for teaching.	Meeting parents and families where they are. Being welcomed by the time you walk in the door.	Student and teacher engagement. Pictures of students throughout the school.	Serve non-traditional students
Incorporate a curriculum that incorporates and recognizes the contributions of all cultures in our global society	Meeting students and families where they are.	Student engages	Social, emotional education
Invest in areas that have most need. Increase supportive culture/climate and culture competency	Open door policy	Student faces, student work, clear values, clear vision, clear expectations	Students are graduating and matriculating through college.
Investing in all schools with equal budgets! Investing in all kids in different levels	open door policy, teacher-student relationship, family engagement	Students engaged and working with peers. Students have access to technology. Administrators are support the teachers by being engaged.	Students excited about: learning in their school, their community. Student grades closer to 85%- 100%. Striving for excellence
Model teaching strategies of successful schools.	Open lines of communication. More social programming to make our students better citizens	Students engaged. Teachers with creative, meaningful relationship with youth	Success for my child, school, and DCPS over the next 5-10 years means that students are academically prepared to attend a Tier I university.

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More diverse student body, and incorporating life skills.	Remove metal detectors from DCPS schools/ encourage harsher punishments for bullying	Students leading their own learning	Transparency in budget and communications.
More funding, student support, and family support.	School based events that promote diversification and acceptance daily.	Students teaching one another.	trauma support/services
More money, Staffing, mental health needs. More parent engagement! Help schools develop high achieving, college-centered cultures	Schools as community places out of school hours (playground, gym, etc.	Students teaching one another.	Vocational education. Getting good at educating students that are challenging to educate and move them forward.
Much more data and needs assessment to understand just how deep student needs are. Very hard to ensure equity without knowing what types and how deep needs are.	Strong PTA and principal. Good communication and multimedia communication since all parents have email	Students that are engaged	We need to get at teaching non-traditional students who are behind and less engaged
Newly renovated, equal staffing/full time, more technology, clear take away from public schools, define excellence.	Train teachers and school professionals to build deeper relationships with families. Empowering the family and children to react higher. Training (cultural competency etc.) Being proactive in efforts to recognize and respect different structures.	Students who are excited to learn and teachers who are excited to teach!	When we begin to act as one, be united that is when we will succeed as a public school system
Not seeing themselves reflected in the curriculum does not encourage our students to succeed	Visibility and internal family engagement	Teachers who motivate, inspire and uplift the students. Teachers must feel they have a vested interest in the success of students they instruct.	
Personal accountability on all levels. Every person must ask themselves every day what they can do better. Mechanisms that drive this is key	We need to do a better job at recruitment and retention of male teachers of color.	Updated technology	
Programs to help students understand the importance of healthy eating and academics	We need to promote recruitment of community residents then all will be welcomed.	Use of technology, removal of metal detectors, and vocational education	

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Provide equal resources across the wards. If there are schools who have greater outside resources, then DCPS money to help schools without great resources	Welcoming appearance in the school. Staff greeting students by name in the AM in a warm manner.	vibrant learning- students engaged	
Provide welcoming environment that does not communicate that that students are not to be trusted.		Who is teaching the children? Do they have a vested interest?	
Respect male teachers			
Use one test, once a year to measure where students are and what their growth has been.			
We need to be transparent about the problems we have: students, test-obsession, compliance vs. excellence, and innovation.			
We need to build a stronger teacher pipeline in partnership with local universities. We need to continue incentivizing the strongest teachers to work in our high risk schools and wards.			