

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?
Address the achievement gap	A welcome desk with school staff by security. Individual greetings in the AM to all schools (not just elementary)	A combination of excitement, calm, order and evidence of learning	A high school option other than Wilson and magnets/charter
Adjust impact evaluations so they aren't weighted to teachers with higher SES kids	ADA compliant school	A longer time to start school	A school system that is strong and thorough enough for every school.
Arts, music, PE at all schools.	Administrative and teacher sensitivity training	A teacher / - often the lead teacher is in training/ planning.	A school system that is strong and thorough enough for every school.
Better long-range/strategic planning for capacity.	All parents/ positive feedback	Active learning with engaged students	Ability to leave DCPS being college and career ready. Ready to compete in a global economy.
By focusing on classroom practices that improve education and excellence in math & literacy	As a parent who values equity for all, but can afford private school dont make it so hard for me.	Active learning with engaged students	Ability to leave DCPS being college and career ready. Ready to compete in a global economy.
By not assuming that one, inflexible, top down administration imposed system is the only way to do it.	Be nice to them	Active learning- kids learning from/ debating/ challenging their peers and teachers in a respectful manner.	Academic rigor, experiences that will prepare them for people
Change curriculum or address cultural differences	Better communication.	All students engaged in rigorous, relevant learning	Academic rigor, experiences that will prepare them for people
Collaboration across communities and schools	Books that	Appropriately sized classroom that enable educators to focus on students needs - both those that struggle and that need advanced learning.	Accessible mental health supports
Consistent mentorship and support by staff at school. Retention of quality staff, incentives for them. Need for school-based assessment to allocate resources.	Bring in certified peer specialist to assist parents and students work with teachers and staff	Better food	Accurate projections = adequate budget.

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Create a balancing curriculum and supporting programs.	Care about student attitudes and take steps to address	Better food	All kids engaged and succeeding
Create a balancing curriculum and supporting programs.	Change approach to discipline alternatives to suspension	Better food!!!	All students have desire to succeed
Culture of reading	Communication. (Look at the whole picture. Create a parents center)	Better teachers	Character
Ensure children of all backgrounds and with all disabilities are accommodated	Decrease achievement gap. Increase opportunities for high-achieving students.	Cell phone use is out of control at Wilson HS. Also misbehavior and cursing and class disruptions seem to have no consequences.	closing achievement gaps.
Equalizing raised by parents across schools.	Decrease residency fraud in Ward 6	Children sharing respectful ideas, innovation that keeps them engaged, relating to them!	closing achievement gaps. Being able to progress to the next level. Including work
Equity - funding spread correctly	Different types of events.	Clean, safe facilities. Love and caring faculty	Complete modernizations everywhere that needs it.
Equity definition- giving everyone what the need and can vary from school to school socio-economic needs.	Diversity of the student body. Staff/teachers who support when needed but have expectations that challenge students at their level.	Consistency - happy students/happy teachers studying consistent curriculum and meeting consistent expectations year in, year out.	Continuing restorations and modernizations.
Equity in curriculum, balance in ed apps for all	Diversity task-force.	Cooperation	Equal access
Equity is extremely important, especially for the Title 1 schools.	Engagement doesn't necessarily mean that parents come to events.	Create opportunity for diversity instruction and allow kids to play outside.	Equal access to technology, especially in title schools
Equity office build out. Clearly, operationally, define excellence and equity.	Engagement, cultural sensitivity	Dedicated teachers with support from schools and families	Equality across all wards of the city
Equity office build out. Clearly, operationally, define excellence and equity.	Ensure safety for students. Need to make real progress in helping make Spanish speaking and non-English speaking families feel welcome.	Diversity of student teachers. Joy. Variety of subjects and loss of recess.	Equality across the city

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Excellence starts at the top. There should be an even distribution of resources.	Ensure the school climate is conducive to what we want them to do.	Engagement of students and school staff	Equality across the city
Extracurricular partnernships motivate active learning and helps with school climate.	Ensure the school climate is conducive to what we want them to do.	Engagement of students and school staff	Fair salaries; fair contract
Final assessment of core math to be promoted passing 65% to 70%	Events focused on parent engagement. Parent-principal breakfasts	Energetic orderly learning	Financial literacy. Knowledge of how laws are made
Focus on supporting school admin + teachers	Fully fund DCPS	Engaged students, up-to-date technology, small class sizes	Growth
Funding for more than academics, support all teachers in all schools, strong leaders with strong visions	Good communication between families and the schools.	Engaged students. Teacher who are teaching thos students	Happy students
Funding for non-traditional approaches	Good continued communications. Continued and constant conversation on inclusion and accepting all people.	Engaged teachers + teacher happiness	High effective school leaders!!
Gather expert (impact) teachers regularly and ask them (PS I am not an expert teacher yet)	Have a dream director in every school to help school to help create projects around	Engaged teaching	High graduation rate
Giving all students what they need to succeed.	Higher performing schools partnering with lower schools. Social media engagement	Engaging students; enriching learning	High rtention rate of families in system. Decrease achievement gap
Giving all students what they need to succeed.	Higher performing schools partnering with lower schools. Social media engagement	Equity across schools	Holisitc approach - Pelnty of history, science, foreign language, arts and music, PE, etc. - Don't focus exclusively on ELA/MATH - teach those via intersting multidisciplinary exploration.
Have an equitable account of responsibility for all: students, teachers, admin, and parents	Instill pride in DCPS through strong schools, solid leadership, improving facilities, and retaining our great teachers.	Hands on collaborative learning. Strong teacher student relationships	I want DCPS to engage and interest my high-achieving student to push beyond just 'getting an A' - without becoming a snob.

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High teacher quality. Strong student recruitment - ensuring families are enrolling	It all starts with teaching. Those who communicate serve as initial ambassadors.	Hands on collaborative learning. Strong teacher student relationships	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.
Highly value effective through highly effective teachers. Keep them in their schools	It all starts with teaching. Those who communicate serve as initial ambassadors.	Happ Children, active learning diversity	I want to see both the academic and technology grow with current standards - even better get ahead of the growth.
Hold parents accountable, like DBH. Support IB-IF you do, you'll have academic growth , lessen the achievement gap.	Kids who need the most intervention often have the least engaged parents. Fix Health form process	Happiness	I want to see my son, challenged, engaged, and inspired to love learning. I want to see our neighborhood
Hold parents accountable, like DBH. Support IB-IF you do, you'll have academic growth , lessen the achievement gap.	Kids who need the most intervention often have the least engaged parents. Fix Health form process	Happiness; engagement; active learning	Improved achievement in standardized test scores.
Holding all parties accountable	Kindness; modernized buildings	Happy and engaged students. Professional and engaging teacher	Improved learning outcomes for ALL kids
Improve/modernize facilities	leadership, staff, faculty, that genuinely care for.	Happy children	Increase DCPS enrollment. Decrease charter school enrollment
Increase teachers and aides to impact AG + socioemotional issues	Making sure they have a voice and making it clear we came about them as a whole person.	Happy healthy kids	Increase international exchange / exposure for students.
Lead first by excellence. Excellence base practice starts at top	Meeting needs beyond academic outreach to communities and parents. Empathy of teachers and school staff	Happy kids. Responsive classroom training.	Less busy work for homework. There is too much homework at Deal.
Lead from DCPS Central instead of leaving principals to lead alone leading to inequalities across schools.	More opportunities for creative learning.	Happy students and teachers who are supported.	Less emphasis on teacher evaluation and test scores.

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Less focus on testing.	Never- ending conversation in classroom school.	Happy teachers	Making it possible for me to stay in DCPS by investing in our teachers.
Let's address and implement culturally relevant pedagogy	Never- ending conversation in classroom school.	Happy teachers supported by administration.	Many High Schools to choose from
Make sure to continue putting out the word about things on social media.	Open door policy for parents to be in the classroom to observe and provide help to the teachers	High quality learning, engaged students, classrooms have what is needed to support learning environment	Modernize capitol hill montessori.
Meet our children where they are	Our schools are welcoming to all families.	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). Well maintained facilities welcoming staff high behavioral standards (and dress code).	Modernize capitol hill montessori.
More DC School fairs	Pleasant, respectful, welcome to everyone	I like to see a clear, organized, quiet but happy environment.	More \$ for support staff & aides in classrooms
More DC school fairs	Promoting engagement - time sensitivity for single solo parent	Individualized learning opportunities based on interest and competency	More arts education to balance STEM programs
More flexibility	Resources - classes for families, support services, community schools.	Joy	More critical needs languages!
More funding for at-risk kids	School and classroom libraries that have stories about a variety cultures etc.	Joy & learning. Joyful learnings	More field trips, more stem/ robotics, and teaching of technical life skills.
More funding for at-risk kids/schools that don't have PTAs who can raise 100K/year	School safety.	Leadership/staff that honestly care about children	More looping especially in lower grades
More funding so PTAs don't have to fill curriculum, and supply gaps	Schools can give family nights whether it is a free movie at school or ice cream socials	Library books	More money for supplies

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More language immersion, more writing, more STEM, less testing	Sensitivity training/ internal biases at disability home visit.	Lively, vibrant, up keeping facilities	More services to support students with disabilities after high school
More opportunities for meaningful SPED inclusion	Social-emotional support for students so they can focus on learning	Make money for graduation and senior trip	No more getting over lottery because good schools are the norm
More parent/family voice in school offering	Staff stand at door in maning and welcome each student	More aides learning that is fun	No need for lottery curriculum rejects community
More parent/family voice in school offering	Staff stand at door in maning and welcome each student	More motivation	Opportunities for specialized approaches to flourish
More pull-outs for kids not on grade level	Stress teamwork!	More teachers and aids. Kids excited about learning. Kids who stay in their schools.	People having constant communication about their experiences
More SPED support	Strong leadership	Multilanguage. Thriving kids	Post high school graduation - Evaluating systems in their adulthood and measuring their success.
More support for all students	Strong school leaders!!!	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.	Preparing students for 21st century jobs
More teachers in the classroom to teach to the very diverse learning stages and socio-economic needs.	Students, teachers, and admin should great all visitors with kindness and assistance	People engaged and learning. Bright lights, functioning facilities, color.	Pride in oneself. Pride for their school
Need more SPED support staff - too much focus on other areas.	Support family engagement opportunities.	People engaged and learning. Bright lights, functioning facilities, color.	Ready to succeed in life.
Need organizational access of each school. Teachers should be quillified to teach.	Suspension with only real life threatening issues	Respectful discussion. Books, technology in use. Engaged teachers.	Ready to succeed in life.
Offer classes that challenge all students, above and below grade-level	Teachers and admin that respond to communications,	Respectful discussion. Books, technology in use. Engaged teachers.	Reduced achievment gaps

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Once students enroll, value keeping them enrolled in their school - otherwise it is a sign of a problem.	There should be more thorough school-based health centers	Safety	Reducing achievement gaps for young African American boys
Prevented by heavy structure.	To encourage community amongst parents in order to best support their students and the community.	Schools without trailers. As the city grows and retains residents, schools have to be a part of the conversation.	Renovate all schools
Promote excellence through excellence-based practices	Transportation - out-of-boundary. Teacher evaluations - Involve parents.	Smiles on faces - or concentration. Clean, safe, beautiful.	Renovate all schools
Provide resources in each school to meet the real needs	Welcoming administration.	Smiling faces	Renovated buildings for all MS/ES
Provide students with high quality professional educators and administrators. Hold students and professionals to high expectations.	Wrap around services and support for families	Smiling, welcoming staff, ready to teach and support students excited to be at school.	Respect for self. Respect for others. Knowledgeable well rounded individuals.
Pushing literacy at an early age		Space: Sunny bright and clean, modernized	Respect for self. Respect for others. Well rounded individuals.
Resources- equity in distribution and consideration of differing needs.		Space: Sunny bright and clean, modernized	Retain excellent teachers
Resources- equity in distribution and consideration of differing needs.		Students being challenged and inspired	Retention of highly effective teachers and strong school leadership to guide the entire school community
Retain great teachers		Students leading their vision and their voice. I want to see color, pictures of students in action, and smiles across all faces.	Steady - or better - academic progress in a safe, diverse environment
Retaining high quality teachers and school leadership.		Students who love learning acknowledges that education is necessary for success	Strong middle and high schools

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Rigor and joy need a central office vision for the philosophy and actions in all areas.		Teacher engagement with students	Strong school leaders
Schools need to demand more resources. Needs a to be a clear channel for parents to communicate their needs or issues to DCPs		Teacher retention and incentives for teacher's quality.	Student achievement retention
Set the example at the top. What does equity mean in this context?		Teachers & students connecting on a personal level	Student achievement retention
Smaller class sizes		Teachers are consistently trained across the board in the practice of the school's program.	Students graduating with diploma. Lottery becomes irrelevant
Standardization is the lazy approach to achieving equity. Arts, music, PE should be at every school. PE everyday.		Teachers that have stability. Long tenure teachers	Students living lives of passion, purpose, power, and possibility with skilled mindsets they have learned.
Stop test craze		Technology	Success for me would be graduating kids who are capable taking care of themselves
Strong focus on writing - The ability for students to build convincing arguments with supporting evidence and fluency of english language.		Technology enhanced	Success in schools being institutions of possibility where the whole child is being cared for.
Strong school leaders. NFL Style funding and staffing. Greta teachers at low performing schools		Textbooks and books in general.	Support for principals. Staff know students by name throughout school.
Support for new leadership. Mentoring from experienced, successful leaders.		Thriving classrooms. Engaged learning (curriculum doesn't matter)	support teachers so they afford to line in DC, area where they teach
Supports IB! Support public schools!		to meet our students where they are and more to next level	Technology for all schools (Title I included)

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The NFL Model: lowest performing first choice		Turnover happens all the time with students populations.	Technology that works in each classroom.
The same education that could be provided at a higher school		Welcoming staff and ethnic diversity involves the school system.	Tests that aren't given to us about topics we haven't learned so we can actually pass (Ex: SAT)
Transparency		Welcoming teachers and staff, kind, caring	Top notch writing, reading, math and analytical skills.
Transparent funding formulas			
Trust. PTO/Fundraising equity.			
Well supported teachers. Great teachers. Rigorous curriculum.			
Well-rounded, IE arts, music for at-risk kids			