

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?
Access for all students: to curriculum, opportunities, resources. Including those with disabilities, ELL, LGBTQ.	A transparent, open dialogue with admin staff, principles, etc. Open resource availability to ALL regardless of ward and school size.	1 to 1 computer to student ratio	All 3rd graders reading on grade level
Add STEAM to Houston Elementary School.	Better consumer service training for teachers and security guards.	A socio-economic, racially diverse environment that is filled with people committed to working hard and asking well thought out questions. Focus on critical thinking.	Better special education (autism) programs. Provide a safe learning environment.
Address the systemic inequity occurring in education east of the river. Strengthen the middle school pipeline and develop high quality options east of the River. 6 million isn't enough	Creating environments of inclusion. Don't just welcome everyone to table, yet not include them in the conversation.	Aids and teachers actually teaching and not watching movies.	Connections to real world/real life for students (including jobs and college or training); tracking outcomes 5-10 years after graduation.
Adopt a school program	Cultural sensitivity. Training for teachers and staff.	Authentic assessments	Equal services for schools in ALL wards.
After-school programs. Mentors. Incentives.	culturally aware, respectful, treating people as people	Blended learning plans.	Extracurriculars - music, arts, sciences, sports - contributing to the WHOLE child.
Better afterschool education programs, focused on remediation.	DCPS customer service improvement standards across the board. Open communication between parents and school. Providing opportunities for classroom interactions for parents	Caring adults, engaged parents, and empowered youth!	High grade rates. Diverse student activities. Female empowerment.
Better PTA resources for ALL schools!	Engaging families in THEIR homes and communities i.e home visits. Wrap around service for families	cleanliness	High School dropout rates decreased.

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Building out mentorship programs.	Family communication 24/7 with canvas LMS.	Culturally responsive social justice curriculum particularly addressing exposing and dismantling white supremacy. Generative literacy practices that value the multiple literacies that students come with	Higher graduation rates. More college acceptances.
By providing equal opportunities, supplies and equipment to ALL students regardless of wards. To press more accountability for parents AND students.	Free access to administration.	Empowerment	Increase college admissions
Colocate DOH & HHS inside schools	Funding and resources are shared with all schools - regardless of neighborhood.	engaged students/technology/teacher aides in each classroom. Partnerships with corporations. Parent academy and resource center.	Increase on budgets.
Conduct performance audits on external vendors to ensure SLA	Get rid of some of these principals that are dictators on welcome and the community support.	Engaged, supportive, diverse, excited staff & students.	Increased graduation rates
Create more partnerships with colleges and universities.	Get rid of the bullies within DCPS headquarters.	Focus-oriented students (valued admin).	Leaders in various industries
Create standard tech budget so 1 to 1 ratio is achieved for PARCC testing	Have a conversation with grads of DCPS. 20 years ago or longer to hear what made DCPS a great school system. Programs, staff, locations, resources.	Functional technology.	More capability for student achievement regardless of ward and school size.
DC Public Schools promoting excellence and equality by: having programs to celebrate achievements (not award, but recognition). Shoutout board.	Knowing students and families by name. Creating safe spaces in the school buildings.	Green schools!	More programs geared towards college
Different wards have different needs. Where you come from does dictate your desire to learn or measure of success	language access	Homegrown leadership. Cohorts & teams are needed to get people at the right school. Looking at teams & not just data/test scores	More services for high school

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Environmental literacy for all students and walk the talk (eg. recycle). Model sustainable behaviors - good citizenship.	Mentor/mentee program!	I hope to see strong educators and leaders that are committed to the students and community	My child to have a competitive education that rivals or lends itself to private or boarding schools
Equitable funding for special ed. self-contained program. Prioritize socio-emotional supports instead of standardized testing. Objective administrators. 51st statehood initiative implemented in curriculum.	Modernized buildings, transparency from central office, accountability. High ranking staff should be fired like the teachers at low performing schools.	Inclusion of conflict resolution, emotional literacy, and mindfulness. (Mind Up is a great resource!)	Outcomes! Variety of programming. Testing scores.
Find a new chief of schools. One who will work with all wards equally.	More accountable staff.	Joy + Rigor	Over the next years, improved attendance, out of school experience, lowered suspension rates, and students striving for excellence, team of children from each school to promote, more parent involvement.
Fire underperforming teachers	Need to make sure that our great ideas are being tailored to our students, schools, and faculty's needs.	Library (new books). Working technology.	Partnerships
Foster equity--offer options to as many schools as possible. Each ward would have adversity of course. Offerings i.e. elementary: middle, high, language emersion at all levels. Activities before and after school programs	Open door policy for all classrooms.	More friendly schools. Aiton is not a parent-friendly school. Parents have no voice.	Please give us some qualified and committed teachers!
Get parent involvement	Opening doors. Programs to celebrate student success, better communication (trying technology)	No burned out teachers	Prepared, well-rounded students ready for a global world
Investment matters. Students and schools in Ward 7 & 8 do not have the same level of programmatic or general resource investment as other parts of the city	Providing an excellent campus (school) environment. Better communication w/ teachers.	Properly utilized trash/recycle/compost bins in all areas of the school, supporting Healthy Schools Act goals with participation by ALL adults and children in the building.	Reduction in teacher churn. Increase in authentic engagement.
Model what excellence and equity looks like. Demonstrate the keys!	Regular touch points	Real world problem solving	Resources

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Reduce/eliminate social promotion. Vertical alignment in the accountability of Elementary principals, middle school principals, and high school principals. Promote strong instructional leaders.	Special investments have to be made (it can't only be generalized. What is needed at each school? Middle school pipeline is broken. Teachers should live in the communities	Rigorous activities, blended learning, respectful environment, AP/Advanced classes, fun, active participation, welcoming environment, engaged and challenging the students.	Respect!!! Senior teachers have been pushed out (forced into retirement). Younger teachers who want to teach not just for a check
Safe space with trauma. Informed staff so that all students can learn no matter their background.	Surprise visits to see what is going on in these schools	Rigorous activities, students participating, electronics. More AP classes.	Rich internships, travel, and college experience.
Strong ed-tech efforts. Students are creators instead of consumers. Collaboration. Content. Community!	varied and frequent communication is a great start	rigorous, blended, respectful participation. Vocational school. Alternative school settings.	Strong emotional support from black & latino students (satisfaction rates are DEPLORABLE).
Students leaving Ward 7 to attend schools in other wards so they aren't getting counted. Need to articulate quality --> specialized doesn't equal quality. Comprehensive schools maybe a bigger	Welcoming PTOs.	Student voice!	Students reading on grade level
Supplies and equipment availability to ALL schools and students.		Students excited about learning	Success is preparing the student so once they get to college they don't HAVE to study longer/harder in order to be on the same level academically with their college cohort.
Teachers that come to DCPS really want to make an impact but they need more support and even appreciation from administration.		Students that want to learn and teachers that want to teach.	To be able to obtain employment. To be able to read and write.
Through values and improving teaching. Importance on developing solutions on higher learning.		Teacher-student engagement.	To encourage more Public Health/Safety. To have more connections from High School to higher education. To be more parent-involved starting at the lower levels.
Trauma-informed training for ALL staff.		Teachers more engaged with the students.	Ward 7 families coming back to DCPS and teachers feeling comfortable enough to send their kids.

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True accountability: make sure we don't just pass along. Need to take city-wide accountability.		Technology in every student's hands!	What represents success is higher test scores; improved attendance and a higher education rate.
Updating all schools!		To see focus-oriented students, with valued educators. Ability to maintain focus and control for the classroom. To Promote a "village" setting to see all classes have the same major baseline for equipment and supplies.	
		Valued educators	
		Valued high performing custodial and support staff	
		Welcome and Clean Environment! Students who are respectful and engaged! Administrator who is present and supports staff, parents, and students.	