



June 29, 2016

Dear DCPS Principals,

As a school leader, you know that one key to success is helping your team maintain calm and stability through change and uncertainty. Many of you have been through changes in student enrollment, political changes, changes at the district level, and countless policy changes. Now I am going to ask you to lead your school through yet another change.

On October 1, 2016, I will be leaving my role as Chancellor of DCPS. Simply put, I am ready to take on new challenges, and I have complete confidence that the team we have built at DCPS is prepared to drive our work forward under new leadership.

I am grateful to Mayor Bowser, both for her support through this transition, and for her decision to appoint John Davis, Chief of Schools, as the interim Chancellor for DCPS. I was overjoyed that John is willing to take on this challenge. John has over two decades of experience in education as a teacher, principal, and district leader. He also is a DCPS parent, and has a strong commitment to serving all our students.

I have said many times that we have the strongest principals of any district in the country, and I believe that deeply. The gains we have made over the past nine years in test scores, graduation rates, student satisfaction, and enrollment are all due to the hard work that you put in every day.

Beyond those results, I have seen each of you do amazing things over the past nine years. I have seen you open your doors to new students when nearby schools close. I have seen you celebrate your students' achievements and care for your students through tragedies. I have seen you seek out new opportunities for your students to experience the world. I have seen you reach out to your families and communities as true partners.

All I ask of you is that you continue to do the amazing, inspiring, transformative work that you do every day. Keep asking what more you can do to help our students. Keep finding ways to prepare our students for a bright future. Keep pushing our students to achieve more.

Of all the work we have done at DCPS, there is nothing I am more proud of than assembling this group of school leaders.

I am proud of the work we have done together and I am excited to see our district continue to thrive.

Sincerely,

Kaya Henderson
Chancellor