



June 29, 2016

Dear DCPS Teachers and Staff,

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 have recently spent a lot of time thinking about how DCPS has changed in the past nine years. From consecutive years of enrollment increases to rising test scores to increased student satisfaction, we have seen a great deal of positive change in our district. What is most notable to me, however, is that when I visit our schools, I consistently see a focus on instructional rigor and a strong school culture. While DCPS has provided many of the tools and the support for improved rigor and school culture, it is you, the staff at each school, who use these tools to help prepare our students for a bright future.

It is this change – the change in how our schools feel for our students – that makes me optimistic that DCPS will continue to help our students thrive for years to come. We are challenging students to achieve at high levels and we are challenging them to be the best people they can be. This is truly the most important work that we do. It will have a lasting impact on our students and on our schools.

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 firmly believe that we have the tools and the team in place to help our students achieve greatness. I appreciate the hard work you have done over the past few years and I am grateful to you for continuing your efforts on behalf of our children.

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