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## Mission

To provide quality public charter school options for DC students, families, and communities. We fulfill our mission by providing:

- A rigorous and comprehensive charter application process, guaranteeing that only the strongest applicants with innovative programs are approved to open new schools.
- Effective oversight and meaningful support of every public charter school. We closely monitor academic performance and non-academic outcomes, such as attendance, open enrollment, and finances.
- Clear and transparent reporting on public charter school performance.
  Our School Quality Report rates most public charter schools as Tier 1 (topperforming), Tier 2 (mid-performing), or Tier 3 (low-performing), helping families select the right school for their child.
- Opportunities for involvement of families, school leaders and staff, the community, and policymakers in our policies and processes.

## Vision

To lead the transformation of public education and serve as a national role model for public charter school authorizing and accountability.

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Created in 1996, the DC Public Charter School Board (DC PCSB) is an independent government agency of the District of Columbia that provides academic and financial oversight to 123 citywide public charter schools, in school year 2019-20, that are managed by 62 independently run nonprofit organizations called local education agencies. These local education agencies educate 43, 485 students.





AUTHORIZING DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC When public charter schools closed their buildings to in-person instruction in response to the spread of COVID-19, school leaders across the District swiftly moved to create new structures to provide distance learning and provide resources for their students and families.

As the charter school authorizer, we have also had to shift our role to adjust to this new reality. This new role placed us closer than usual to instruction and day-to-day operations. Our role continues to evolve as we learn how to navigate the need to provide guidance, oversight, and support to the schools.



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This is a critical time for authorizers. How we respond to COVID-19 will make a difference to the lives of the children our schools serve. It could also help shape the future of public charter schools. Much will change on the other side of this pandemic. When policymakers and the public look back at how we responded, will they see public charter schools as part of the solution, or contributing to the problem?

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- Scott Pearson, DC PCSB Executive Director

To meet the challenges facing students, families, and schools, we focused on these six priorities:

- 1. Facilitate learning and experience sharing;
- 2. Adjust our accountability standards;
- 3. Collaborate with government partners to organize an effective response;
- 4. Conduct appropriate oversight of distance learning;
- 5. Enable our agency to function effectively;
- 6. Communications.

## Facilitate Learning and Experience Sharing

We hosted more than 100 webinars between March and May for school leaders, teachers, families, and more. The webinar topics ranged from preparation of Back-to-School teacher and leader orientations to students sharing their priorities for educators for school year 2020-21. Our hope was to create space for attendees to share what was going well and where there was room for improvement as we worked to support students and families in remote learning.



## Adjust Our Accountability Standards

In response to the COVID-19 public health emergency physically closing schools, DC PCSB approved a policy to address how we would provide oversight of schools. Key provisions in the policy:

- DC PCSB will not collect, aggregate, and release academic data for SY 2019 – 20 and will not produce a School Quality Report (also known as the Performance Management Framework or PMF) this year, 2020.
- DC PCSB will not collect data for the purpose of assessing a school's SY 2019 – 20 charter goals and academic achievement expectations.
- DC PCSB will not report on or consider SY 2019 – 20 goal attainment in charter review and renewal reports.

### Collaborate with Government Partners to Organize an Effective Response

Here are a couple of things that we did working across government agencies.

We worked with the State Education Department to set up meal distribution sites for students.

We participated in issue-based working groups hosted by the deputy mayor for education (DME).

- Access to Devices and Internet
- Special Education
- Budget Planning
- Student Safety
- Mental Health
- Family Resource Alignment and Support
- Teacher Support
- Adult Charters
- English Language Learners

## Lessening the Digital Divide

The digital divide—the gap between people with functional access to digital and information technologies and those with little to no access at all—is disproportionately affecting at-risk students. Nearly every public charter schools prioritized assessing devices needs within their respective school communities, in conjunction with an assessment of on-hand inventory. While some public charter schools—such as KIPP DC, Ingenuity Prep PCS, and Washington Leadership Academy PCS—maintained a 1-to-1 student-to-Chromebook ratio before COVID-19, several other public charter schools found themselves in uncharted territory, working urgently to secure laptops for students in need. DC PCSB also established as a baseline that schools were responsible for ensuring that every student had access to a device with internet access.

To support public charter school leaders with the digital divide—the gap between people with functional access to digital and information technologies and those with little to no access at all—Executive Director Scott Pearson facilitated a \$250,000 purchase of 1,600 T-Mobile hotspots for students who lacked WiFi in late March. Also, citywide, Mayor Muriel Bowser announced a \$1 million fund to help close the digital divide for students in traditional public schools and public charter schools across the District.



## **Conduct Appropriate Oversight of Distance Learning**

DC PCSB led the charge by requesting that every DC public charter school submit its distance learning plans to us to review. This action allowed educators to figure out the most effective ways to teach and engage students as they quickly shifted from the classroom to home-based learning.

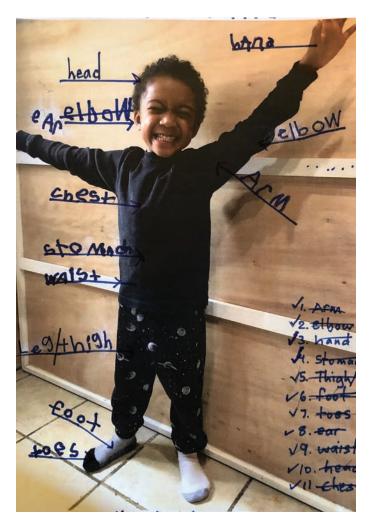
## **Enabling Our Agency to Function Effectively**

Over the years, we invested in moving our data to the cloud. Now our IT function is on overdrive, ensuring that every staff member has the tools they need to work from home effectively.

## **Distance Learning**

Education, as we know it, has shifted entirely online because of COVID-19. The transition has been challenging for PK – 12 students as they navigate completing classwork at home and finding ways to maintain a school-like environment. Still, the shift has affected adult students far more.

Overall, public charter schools are primarily offering remote instruction to students using one of three ways: Learning Packets, Web-Based Instruction, and a Multiple-Modality Approach to Instruction.



## Learning for PK Students

Learning packets are primary form of instruction for schools serving PK students. This primary form aligns with each school's educational program and curriculum. Frequent teacher check-ins by phone or text are commonly supporting this approach.

## Learning for K – 8

Distance learning for students in grades K – 8 looks different from school to school. Some schools are distributing learning packets and providing supplemental instruction items online. Most schools delivered synchronous online classes supplemented by videos and personal 1 to 1 contact with students.

## Learning for High School

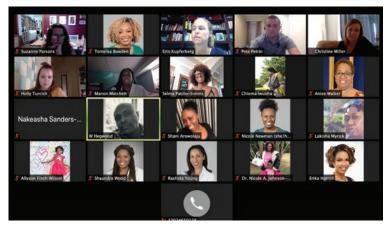
Virtual learning for public charter high schoolers has a common theme: Materials are provided to students through Zoom, Google Classroom, Canvas, and other platforms. Students are expected to complete and turn in assignments daily.

## Learning for Adults

Pre-pandemic, some adult students were juggling family responsibilities, work obligations, and their education. Students were enrolled in either morning or evening classes to accommodate their schedules. Now, COVID-19 has turned DC adult learners' world upside down as many of them are now juggling being a parent, teacher to their children, and teleworker or essential employee, as well as being a student.

### Parent and Alumni Leadership Council Response to COVID-19

We held regular check-ins with our Parent Alumni Leadership Council (PALC) families to get a more parentcentered pulse on how they are feeling about 100% virtual school and the possible reopening in the fall.



Families expressed their appreciation for how schools quickly shifted from in-person instruction to ensuring that all students had adequate access to technology to complete their learning from home.

## Communications

As we continue to navigate this rapidly changing situation, we wanted to succinctly share critical information about adapting to the pandemic through our "Unprecedented Times, Unprecedented Authorizing" blog series.

The series delved into various topics about distance learning, meal distribution, enrollment, accountability, and the digital divide (e.g., internet connections, laptops).

Throughout the stay-at-home orders, social media became an important tool for connection, and we prioritized sharing the most helpful information and resources, as well as all of the amazing accomplishments of public charter schools.

We shared:

- Information about school closures;
- Meal distribution locations and resources;
- Links to free and discounted services for students and families;
- Information on local COVID-19 testing sites;
- Personal narratives from school leaders navigating these unprecedented times;
- Information about our distance learning webinars;
- Public connectivity resources;
- Senior send-off campaign.



## CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2020

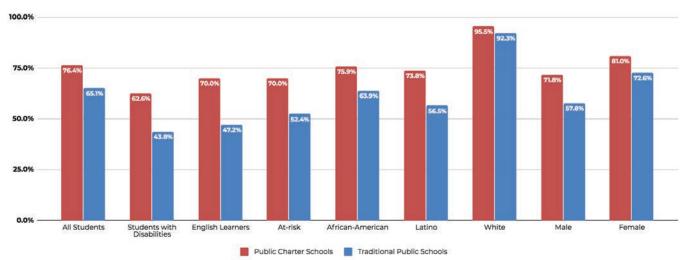
### 2020 Graduations

For the class of 2020, graduation looked a lot different: commencement ceremonies that took place on YouTube and Zoom and included a virtual keynote speaker, innovative ways to showcase each graduate, and diplomas mailed instead of handed to students on graduation day.

We supported the Class of 2020 virtually by highlighting students in our 2020 Senior Spotlight social media campaign. Students shared what they will miss most about high school and their plans after graduation.



The 2019 four-year graduation rate for public charter schools is 76.4%



## 2019 Four-Year Graduation Rate

## WHO WE ARE

Scott Pearson is the Executive Director of the DC Public Charter School Board.



#### **Communications Department**

Tomeika Bowden, Chief Communications Officer Nicole Newman, Community Engagement Senior Specialist Drew Snyder, Government Relations Senior Specialist Aliya Drake, Communications Specialist Mecole Hayes, Digital Media Specialist Matthew Phillips, Communications Coordinator Wintana Yohannes, LEE Fellow

#### Finance, Operations, and Strategic Initiatives Department

Lenora Robinson Mills, Chief Operating Officer Briani Boyd, Executive Administrative Specialist Audrey Williams, Intergovernmental Relations and School Support Senior Manager Jiselle O'Neal, Intergovernmental Relations and School Support Senior Specialist Anne Tomkinson, Human Resources and Operations Senior Manager Charlene Haigler-Mickles, Operations Specialist Danielle Bell, Operations Coordinator Marvin Cross, Finance Manager (OCFO) Tatia Pritchett, Accountant (OCFO) Adam Bethke, Data Engineering Senior Manager Max Tingle, Data Engineering Specialist Gaurav Lalsinghani, Sector Data Analyst Lawrence Hayes, IT Sr. Specialist



#### Legal Department

Sarah Hampton Cheatham, General Counsel Daniel Quandt, Associate Attorney Reema Paracha, Associate Attorney Eric Pait, Legal Fellow



#### **School Performance Department**

Rashida Young, Chief School Performance Officer

#### **Financial and Academic Quality Team**

Erin Kupferberg, Senior Manager Pete Petrin, Manager Holly Turcich, Policy Specialist Alexis Henry, Data Analyst

#### School Quality and Accountability Team

Melodi Sampson, Senior Manager Nicole Cole, Senior Specialist Alison Waddy, Specialist

#### Equity, Audits, and Support Team

Avni Patel Murray, Senior Manager Hannah Cousino, Manager Abby Getzel, Specialist Theresa Kemp, Specialist

#### Fidelity, Applications, and School Climate Team

Katherine Dammann, Senior Manager Jessica Taguding, Senior Data Analyst Olivia Gusman, Specialist Janay Saunders, Specialist

## OUR BOARD MEMBERS

DC PCSB is an independent government agency of the District of Columbia, created in 1996, led by a volunteer seven-member board.











#### Rick Cruz | Chair | Resident of Ward 3

Every student in the District deserves the opportunity to attend a great school: one that develops their skills and perspectives and encourages them to explore their passions; arms them with the knowledge and voice to be engaged citizens; and equips them with the tools to shape their community, their country, and the world.

#### Saba Bireda | Vice Chair | Resident of Ward 7

I believe students are unwavering in their determination to succeed in any circumstance. I am committed to expanding unique, rigorous, communitysupported education opportunities for every student in the District, especially the most disadvantaged. My optimism continues to be my motivation for serving on the Board.

#### Ricarda Ganjam, Ph.D. | Secretary | Resident of Ward 6

This year in particular, I continue to be amazed and inspired by the many people who serve our community and provide high-quality opportunities for all students of DC. School leaders, teachers, volunteers, families, and members of the community have all stepped up in extensive ways to give students access to high-quality experiences at home. I am eager to see the continued support and quality provided by people in the District for our students as we continue to navigate these unprecedented times.

#### Steve Bumbaugh | Treasurer | Resident of Ward 3

As a Board member and former teacher, I prioritize the students with the greatest need. In every decision we make, I view it through a student lens with the hope that the result will have a positive impact on their lives. Serving on this Board gives me the opportunity to advocate for the most marginalized students.



#### Lea Crusey | Member | Resident of Ward 6

I am inspired by the power and potential of DC's scholars, PK through adult. My work as a Board member is grounded in the belief that every child can achieve, and my responsibility as an adult and Board member is to support students reaching their greatest potential. I work through my optimism that is rooted in this prize: All students are prepared for college and life.



#### Naomi Shelton | Member | Resident of Ward 6

Educational opportunity and equity continue to be the North Star for my work in the education space in the District and beyond. My service on this Board continues to be rooted in holding DC's public charter school sector accountable to the students, parents, and families they serve. Through this oversight, I hope to see every sector of our education system improve for all children of the District.



#### Jim Sandman | Member | Resident of Ward 6

I pray that all DC students receive a public education that empowers, inspires, enables, amazes, motivates, exhilarates, and nourishes them.

## BOARD ACTIONS

## **Board Meetings**

This table shows the date and location of our board meetings in the 2019-2020 school year.

Date of Board Meeting	Location
September 16, 2019	DC Public Charter School Board
October 28, 2019	Rocketship DC PCS - Rise Academy
November 18, 2019	Trinity Washington University - Main Hall
December 16, 2019	GALA Theatre
January 27, 2020	DC Public Charter School Board
February 24, 2020	Friendship PCS - Armstrong Elementary & Middle
March 23, 2020	Virtual via Zoom
April 20, 2020	Virtual via Zoom
April 29, 2020 (Continuation of Previous Meeting)	Virtual via Zoom
May 19, 2020	Virtual via Zoom
June 22, 2020	Virtual via Zoom
July 20, 2020	Virtual via Zoom

#### Summary of Approved Board Actions Charter Amendments

SCHOOL NAME	DESCRIPTION	DATE OF BOARD VOTE
The Family Place PCS	Revise Business Rules for Goals	September 16, 2019
Mundo Verde PCS	Revise Campus Names	September 16, 2019
The Next Step/El Proximo Paso PCS	Amend and Restate Charter Agreement	September 16, 2019
Richard Wright School for Journalism and Media Arts PCS	Open New Facility	October 28, 2019
Rocketship Education DC PCS	Open Facility for Third Campus	October 28, 2019
Bridges PCS	Adopt PMF as Goals	October 28, 2019
Mary McLeod Bethune PCS	Adopt PMF as Goals	October 28, 2019
Roots PCS	Update Early Childhood Literacy Assessment	October 28, 2019
Maya Angelou PCS	Revise Attendance Goal	October 28, 2019
DC Prep PCS	Open New Facility for Sixth Campus	November 18, 2019
KIPP DC PCS	Recongifure and Expand Grade Band	November 18, 2019
The Family Place PCS	Increase Enrollment Ceiling	November 18, 2019
Rocketship Education DC PCS	Adopt School Safety Action Plan	December 16, 2019
Eagle Academy PCS	Relocate and Rename One Exisiting Campus	February 24, 2020
Meridian PCS	Relocate and Rename One Exisiting Campus	February 24, 2020
Two Rivers PCS	Relocate Students to Exisiting Campus and Reconfigure Grades Served	February 24, 2020
AppleTree Early Learning PCS	Extend Charter Agreement	February 24, 2020

#### **Charter Amendments**

SCHOOL NAME	DESCRIPTION	DATE OF BOARD VOTE
Bridges PCS	Extend Charter Agreement	February 24, 2020
Youthbuild PCS	Extend Charter Agreement	February 24, 2020
The Next Step/El Proximo Paso PCS	Open Additional Facility	April 29, 2020
Achievement Prep PCS	Reconfigure Campus	May 19, 2020
KIPP DC PCS	Conditionally Approved to Amend Curriculum, Graduation Requirements, and Acquire Competency-Based Learning Waiver	May 19, 2020
Goodwill Excel Center PCS	Revise Goals	May 19, 2020
Lee Montessori PCS	Open New Facility	May 19, 2020
Shining Stars Montessori PCS	Update PMF as Goals Language	May 19, 2020
Cesar Chavez PCS	Revise Campus Name	June 22, 2020
DC Bilingual PCS	Increase Enrollment Ceiling and Update PMF as Goals	June 22, 2020
District International School	Update PMF as Goals Language and Revise Mission- Specific Goals	June 22, 2020
Ingenuity Prep PCS	Update PMF as Goals Language	June 22, 2020
Inspired Teaching Demonstration PCS	Update PMF as Goals Language	June 22, 2020
LAMB PCS	Open New Facility and Close Existing Facilities	June 22, 2020
Rocketship Education DC PCS	Change Campus Name	June 22, 2020
The Children's Guild PCS	Open Additional Facility and Revise Goals	June 22, 2020
Breakthrough Montessori PCS	Update PMF as Goals Language	July 20, 2020
Community College Preparatory PCS	Update PMF as Goals Language	July 20, 2020
Friendship PCS	Competency-Based Learning for Online Program	July 20, 2020
Meridian PCS	Temporary Facility Approval	July 20, 2020
Kingsman Academy PCS	Competency-Based Learning for Online Program	July 20, 2020

#### Charter Reviews, Renewals, New Schools, and Other School Business

SCHOOL NAME	DESCRIPTION	DATE OF BOARD VOTE
Mary McLeod Bethune Day Academy PCS	Renew Charter (15-Year Renewal)	November 18, 2019
Bridges PCS	Renew Charter (15-Year Renewal)	November 18, 2019
Howard University Public Charter Middle School of Mathematics and Science	Renew Charter (15-Year Renewal)	November 18, 2019
IDEA PCS	Continue Charter with Conditions (20-Year Review)	December 16, 2019
Kingsman Academy PCS	Continue Charter with Conditions (5-Year Review)	December 16, 2019
The Children's Guild PCS	Continue Charter with Conditions (5-Year Review)	December 16, 2019
Monument Academy PCS	Continue Charter with Conditions (5-Year Review)	December 16, 2019
AppleTree Early Learning Center PCS	Renew Charter (15-Year Renewal)	January 27, 2020
Early Childhood Acadmey PCS	Renew Charter (15-Year Renewal)	January 27, 2020

SCHOOL NAME	DESCRIPTION	DATE OF BOARD VOTE
Hope Community PCS	Renew Charter (15-Year Renewal)	January 27, 2020
Youthbuild PCS	Renew Charter (15-Year Renewal)	January 27, 2020
Capital City PCS	Continue Charter (20-Year Review)	February 24, 2020
Cedar Tree Academy PCS	Continue Charter (20-Year Review)	February 24, 2020
Washington Global PCS	Continue Charter (5-Year Review)	February 24, 2020
Paul PCS	Continue Charter with Conditions (20-Year Review)	May 19, 2020
Capital Village PCS	Approve Full Charter	June 29, 2020
Girls Global Academy PCS	Approve Full Charter	June 29, 2020
I Dream PCS	Approve Full Charter	June 29, 2020
Social Justice PCS	Approve Full Charter	June 29, 2020
The Sojourner Truth PCS	Approve Full Charter	June 29, 2020
Fiscal Year 2018-19 Financial Audit	Revise Policy	January 27, 2020
COVID-19 Impact Policy	New Policy	May 19, 2020
Elect to Adopt the Performance Management Framework (PMF) as Charter Goals Policy Revisions	Revise Policy	May 19, 2020

#### Charter Reviews, Renewals, New Schools, and Other School Business (continued)

#### DC PCSB Policies Opened for Public Comment

DATE OF BOARD VOTE	POLICY
November 18, 2019	Fiscal Year 2020 Financial Analysis Report (FAR)
February 24, 2020	2019-20 Adult Education Performance Management Framework & Technical Guide
April 29, 2020	Elect to Adopt the Performance Management Framework as Charter Goals

#### Applications to Open a Public Charter School Approved Application

SCHOOL NAME	DESCRIPTION	DATE OF BOARD VOTE
Global Citizens PCS	Request to Open a Public Charter School	March 23, 2020

#### **Denied Applications**

SCHOOL NAME	DESCRIPTION	DATE OF BOARD VOTE
Washington Arabic	Request to Open a Public Charter School	March 23, 2020
The Garden School	Request to Open a Public Charter School	March 23, 2020
Capital Experience Lab	Request to Open a Public Charter School	March 23, 2020

## OUR QUALITATIVE SITE REVIEWS

## **Our Qualitative Site Reviews**

The purpose of the Qualitative Site Review (QSR) is to provide the DC Public Charter School Board (DC PCSB), public charter school leaders, and other community members with qualitative evidence to complement the quantitative evidence gathered in the Performance Management Framework (PMF) and charter goal attainment to be used for determining charter continuance at high-stakes reviews.

The QSR is intended to provide a snapshot of overall quality, not to evaluate individual teachers. DC PCSB conducts unannounced school visits and selects a random sample of classrooms. DC PCSB does not typically observe or score electives but will observe an elective class if the school requests. While DC PCSB may note general trends across grade levels or subject areas, the QSR team will not give recommendations or share individual observation results.

Two components at the campus level and two at the Local Education Agency (LEA) level make up the QSR process:

- a. An introductory meeting with school leaders to gather information about the school's mission and academic program and establish campus observation window(s) (LEA);
- b. Unannounced school observations (campus) of the following:
  - a. Special education program;
  - b. English learner program;
  - c. Academic program (core subjects);
- c. Scheduled debrief with the school leadership team and SQA specialist (campus);
- d. Optional meeting with the LEA board chair and DC PCSB executive director (LEA).

You can find the list of QSRs completed in school year (SY) 2019 – 20 below:

- Goodwill Excel Center PCS
- Inspired Teaching Demonstration PCS
- KIPP DC College Preparatory Academy PCS
- KIPP DC Connect Academy PCS
- KIPP DC Grow Academy PCS
- KIPP DC Honor Academy PCS
- KIPP DC KEY Academy PCS
- KIPP DC Lead Academy PCS
- KIPP DC LEAP Academy PCS
- KIPP DC Northeast Academy PCS
- KIPP DC Promise Academy PCS
- KIPP DC Quest Academy PCS

- KIPP DC Spring Academy PCS
- KIPP DC Valor Academy PCS
- KIPP DC WILL Academy PCS
- Richard Wright PCS for Journalism and Media Arts
- Rocketship Legacy Prep PCS
- Rocketship Rise Academy PCS
- Shining Stars Montessori Academy PCS
- St. Coletta Special Education PCS
- The Next Step/El Próximo Paso PCS
- Washington Latin PCS Middle School
- Washington Latin PCS Upper School
- Washington Leadership Academy PCS
- KIPP DC Somerset College Preparatory PCS

Note: Nine QSRs were postponed because of COVID-19-related school closures.

## STRONG & PROACTIVE FINANCIAL OVERSIGHT DATA

## Monitoring

We monitor the financial health and management of our schools through three primary tools: (1) the annual Financial Analysis Report, which provides a comprehensive assessment of each school's financial health, based on audited financial statements; (2) a review of the annual budget for each school's operations; and (3) a review of interim financial statements, including a balance sheet and income statement.

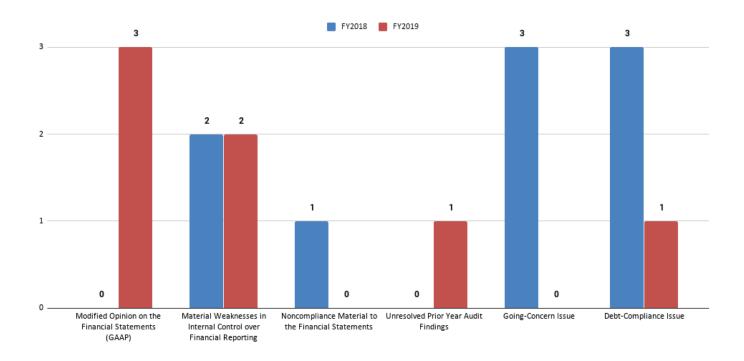
Additionally, schools undergo an in-depth review of their financial health and management as part of their Five- and 10-Year Reviews and 15-Year Renewals.

## Transparency

We post all school budgets, tax returns, at-risk spending plans, and audited financial statements to our website. These documents go along with our annual Financial Analysis Report and a list of all school contracts entered into that are worth more than \$25,000 per year.

## Interventions

If we have concerns about a school's financial health, we collaborate with the school to address them as early as possible. In most cases, we start with two interventions: (1) additional monitoring, including more frequent interim financial statement reviews and budget revisions; and (2) informal discussions of the school's financial challenges and plans for improvement. In cases of more imminent concerns, we may take more formal actions, such as raising our concerns at a public Board meeting, citing a school for fiscal mismanagement, or instituting a Financial Corrective Action Plan, which sets specific performance targets for the school's finances.



Here is our summary of financial audit results for our schools over the past two fiscal years:

## CHARTER APPLICATION PROCESS AND DECISIONS

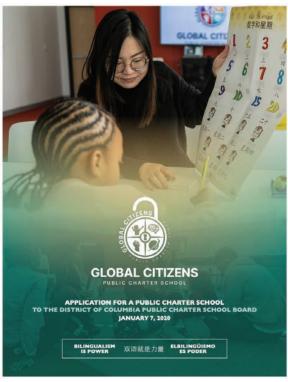
## **Charter Application Process**

A critical component of our mission is to provide quality school options through a comprehensive application process. Each year, DC PCSB accepts applications to open new schools from a wide range of applications from various backgrounds. The 2020 Charter Application Guidelines outline the standard that applicants must meet to be approved to open a new public charter school in Washington, DC.

We evaluate each application up against five main criteria in the standard for approval:

- A demonstrated need for the school;
- · Sufficient progress in developing the plan;
- · Consistency of the mission and philosophy;
- Inclusiveness;
- Founding group ability.

### Decisions



This year, we approved one new school, Global Citizens, that will open in SY 2021 – 22, increasing school quality and choice for District students and families. It is a dual language public charter elementary school that will "immerse [students] in the Mandarin and Spanish languages, promote the value of diversity, and equip them with the knowledge, skills, and mindsets they need to contribute to a better world."

We also received three other public charter school applications. The Board declined:

- Washington Arabic
- The Garden School of Business and Entrepreneurship
- Capital Experience Lab

REVIEWAND RENEWAL DECISIONS

## School Year 2019-20 Reviews and Renewals

At least once every five years, we review each school to confirm that it is meeting the goals and requirements set forth in its charter agreement. In a school's 15th year of operation, it is required to submit an application requesting to renew its charter. In school year 2019 – 20, we conducted 15 reviews and renewals at the following schools:

### **Five-Year Review**

The Children's Guild PCS Kingsman Academy PCS Monument Academy PCS Washington Global PCS

## 15-Year Renewal

AppleTree Early Learning PCS Bridges PCS Early Childhood Academy PCS Hope Community PCS Howard University Public Charter Middle School of Mathematics and Science Mary McLeod Bethune Day Academy PCS YouthBuild PCS

### **20-Year Review**

Capital City PCS Cedar Tree Academy PCS IDEA PCS Paul PCS – International School



## FOCUS ON EQUITY

## **Focus on Equity**

Our strategies include:

- Enrollment Ceiling Increase Policy: In 2018, we revised our Enrollment Ceiling Increase Policy to include subgroup data for academics and discipline. We will assess the following indicators before determining whether to approve a school for expansion:
  - Historically underperforming subgroups must perform at or above the city average on the state assessment for that subgroup OR have a median growth percentile score at or above the city average for that subgroup;
  - The rate of out-of-school suspension for students with disabilities or at-risk students cannot be an outlier compared with rates for the sector (as defined by the interquartile formula).
- Outlier data communications and audits: We review discipline data monthly and notify schools via email when we see significant disproportionality in the use of suspension or expulsion among subgroups (e.g., if a school suspends students with disability at a much higher rate than general education students). If the trend persists, we may conduct a data audit on the school. A school may be audited if there is a data disparity where suspension, expulsion, or midyear withdrawal rates for one subgroup are more than double the rates of their non-subgroup peers.
- **Oversight of Schools' Service to Students with Disabilities:** We conduct oversight to address public charter schools that may not be in compliance with all federal and local laws pertaining to students with disabilities.
- **Oversight of Schools' Services to English Learners:** We monitor schools' compliance with local and federal laws related to EL students. We believe public charter schools have a duty to take appropriate action to overcome language barriers that impede equal participation by students in their instructional programs.
- **Open Enrollment Policy:** We monitor unintentional and intentional barriers to student enrollment through the following initiatives:



#### **Mystery Caller Initiative**

Monitors whether schools are intentionally advising students with disabilities or other needs not to apply.



#### Waitlist Management Initiative

Ensures schools are filling open seats in accordance with internal school procedures and open enrollment expectations set by the law.



#### Application Intake Initiative

Ensures that applications do not ask for information that would prevent a student from applying.



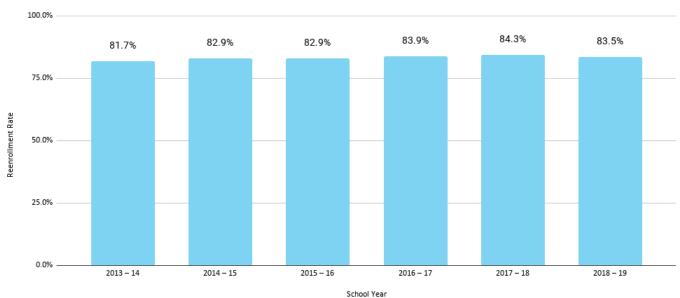
#### Lottery Initiative

Ensures that the lottery is random if a school does not participate in DC's common lottery system.



#### **Enrollment Process Initiative**

Ensures schools are not requesting information that would discourage a student from enrolling. **Reenrollment and Midyear Withdrawal Rates:** Using data that each school submits, we determine if particular groups of students are exiting the school more than other groups of students. Counseling out students during the year or between years is measured by midyear withdrawal and reenrollment rates.

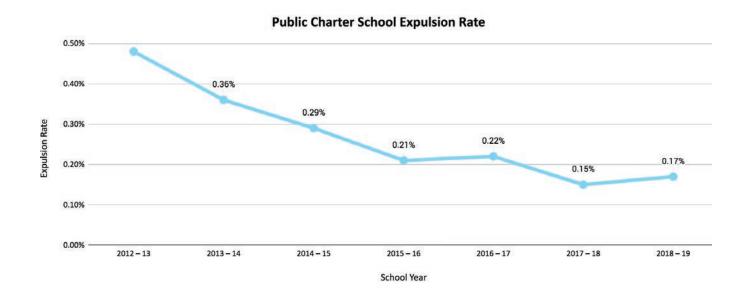


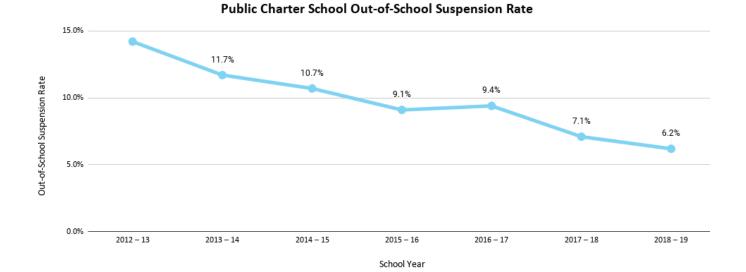
**Re-Enrollment Rate** 

	2018-19 CHARTER	2018-19 CITYWIDE
Midyear Withdrawal	5.0%	6.2%
Midyear Entry	1.5%	5.0%
Net Movement	-3.5%	-1.2%

**Discipline and Attendance Data:** We ask schools to collect and report their monthly exclusionary and attendance data. We analyze this data and work with schools that use exclusionary discipline at significantly higher rates than similar schools to understand their data.

For the seventh straight year, the percentage of students receiving an out-of-school suspension continued to decline, reaching a new low of 6.2%. The rate is almost a percentage point lower than in SY 2018 – 19 and half of what it was in SY 2012 – 13.





EXPANDING QUALITY OPTIONS

## **Expanding Public Charter Schools**

We hold all of our public charter schools to high standards to ensure that all of our 43,485 students receive an education that prepares them for either college or a career. We hold all our public charter schools to high standards to ensure all students receive an education that prepares them for either college or a career.

We have four new public charter school campuses or grades opening in SY 2020 - 21.

#### **Existing Schools Opening New Campuses or Grades**

SCHOOL NAME	WARD	PROGRAM TYPE	GRADES
AppleTree Early Learning Center PCS - Southwest	6	Early Childhood	PK3 to PK4
DC Prep PCS - Anacostia Middle School	5	Interdisciplinary Curriculum	5 to 8
Rocketship PCS – Infinity	5	Early Childhood	4 to 8
Cesar Chavez Public Charter Schools for Public Policy	7	Public Policy	6 to 12

## **New Schools Opening**

Five new public charter schools will open in school year 2020-21. These schools were conditionally approved in school year 2018-19. Over the last year, the school leaders have spent their planning year meeting conditions laid out by DC PCSB.

#### Schools Opening in Fall 2020

SCHOOL NAME	WARD	PROGRAM TYPE	GRADES
Girls Global Academy PCS	2	Single Sex	9 to 12
I Dream PCS	7	Inquiry-Based, Learner-Centered	PK3 to 5
Social Justice Project PCS	5	Expeditionary Learning	5 to 8
The Soujourner Truth School PCS	5	Montessori	6 to 12
Capital Village PCS	5	Expeditionary Learning	5 to 8

### 2019-20 School Closures

In the 2019 - 20 school year, we managed the closure of the following schools:

**Friendship PCS - Technology Preparatory Middle School** - The school, educated students in the 6-8th grades, will reconfigure its Southeast Campus from PK3-5 to two campuses, PK3-3rd and 4th-8th to align with other campuses in the LEA.

**National Collegiate Preparatory Academy PCS** - The school, educated students in grades 9 - 12, was closed in January 2019 at the end of the 2019-20 SY because it did not meet its goals and student achievement expectations.

Achievement Prep PCS - Wahler Place Middle - The campus, educating students in grades 4 - 8, will close due to a school board vote.

LIST OF SCHOOLS

#### Pre-Kindergarten – 12th Grade

Pre-Kindergarten – 12th Grade school NAME	WARD	PROGRAM TYPE	2019 - 20 GRADES	2019 - 20 AUDITED ENROLLMENT
Achievement Preparatory Academy PCS - Wahler Place Elementary	8	Leadership Development	PK3 - 3	375
Achievement Preparatory Academy PCS - Wahler Place Middle	8	Leadership Development	4 - 8	449
AppleTree Early Learning Center PCS - Columbia Heights	1	Early Childhood	РКЗ - РК4	154
AppleTree Early Learning Center PCS - Douglas Knoll	8	Early Childhood	РКЗ - РК4	90
AppleTree Early Learning Center PCS - Lincoln Park	6	Early Childhood	РКЗ - РК4	60
AppleTree Early Learning Center PCS - Oklahoma Avenue	7	Early Childhood	РКЗ - РК4	151
AppleTree Early Learning Center PCS - Parklands at THEARC	8	Early Childhood	PK3-PK4	92
BASIS DC PCS	2	Liberal Arts	5 - 12	636
Breakthrough Montessori PCS	4	Montessori	РКЗ - К	183
Bridges PCS	5	Early Childhood to Elementary; Special Education Focus	PK3 - 5	412
Capital City PCS - High School	4	Arts Integration; Project-Based Learning	9 - 12	335
Capital City PCS - Lower School	4	Arts Integration; Project-Based Learning	PK3 - 4	323
Capital City PCS - Middle School	4	Arts Integration; Project-Based Learning	5 - 8	335
Cedar Tree Academy PCS	8	Early Childhood	РКЗ - К	359
Center City PCS - Brightwood	4	Liberal Arts; Humanities	PK3 - 8	265
Center City PCS - Capitol Hill	6	Liberal Arts; Humanities	PK3 - 8	262
Center City PCS - Congress Heights	8	Liberal Arts; Humanities	PK3 - 8	250
Center City PCS - Petworth	4	Liberal Arts; Humanities	PK3 - 8	250
Center City PCS - Shaw	6	Liberal Arts; Humanities	PK4 - 8	230
Center City PCS - Trinidad	5	Liberal Arts; Humanities	PK4 - 8	207
Cesar Chavez PCS for Public Policy - Parkside High School	7	Public Policy	9 - 12	350
Cesar Chavez PCS for Public Policy - Parkside Middle School	7	Public Policy	6 - 8	133
Creative Minds International PCS	5	International Education; Inclusion; Arts Education/ Integration	PK3 - 7	496
DC Bilingual PCS	5	Dual Language; Arts Integration; Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics (STEM) Focus	PK3 - 5	444
DC Prep PCS - Anacostia Elementary School	8	Interdisciplinary Curriculum	РКЗ - 1	379
DC Prep PCS - Benning Elementary School	7	Interdisciplinary Curriculum	РКЗ - З	448
DC Prep PCS - Benning Middle School	7	Interdisciplinary Curriculum	4 - 8	341
DC Prep PCS - Edgewood Elementary School	5	Interdisciplinary Curriculum	PK3 - 3	450
DC Prep PCS - Edgewood Middle School	5	Interdisciplinary Curriculum	4 - 8	334
DC Scholars PCS	7	Interdisciplinary Curriculum	PK3 - 8	543
Digital Pioneers Academy PCS	7	Computer Science; Diverse Out-of-School Experiences	6-7	120
District of Columbia International School	4	Language Immersion; International Baccalaureate Curriculum	6 - 10	1061
E.L. Haynes PCS - Elementary School	4	Experiential Learning	PK 3 - 4	356
E.L. Haynes PCS - Middle School	1	Experiential Learning	5 - 8	360
E.L. Haynes PCS - High School	4	Experiential Learning	9 - 12	436

<b>Pre-Kindergarten</b>	- 12th	Grade	(Continued)
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school NAME	WARD	PROGRAM TYPE	2019 - 20 GRADES	AUDITED ENROLLMENT
Eagle Academy PCS - Fairlawn	6	Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics (STEM) Focus	PK3 - 3	171
Eagle Academy PCS - Congress Heights	8	Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics (STEM) Focus	PK3 - 3	793
Early Childhood Academy PCS	8	Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics (STEM) Focus	РКЗ - З	259
Elsie Whitlow Stokes Community Freedom PCS - Bookland	5	Dual Language	PK3 - 5	355
Elsie Whitlow Stokes Community Freedom PCS - East End	7	Dual Language	PK3-1	355
Friendship PCS - Armstrong	5	Reggio Emilia-Inspired Learning Center	PK3 - 5	401
Friendship PCS - Blow Pierce Elementary	7	College Prep School	РКЗ - З	395
Friendship PCS - Blow Pierce Middle	7	College Prep School	4 - 8	251
Friendship PCS - Chamberlain Elementary	6	Champions for Student Achievement	РКЗ - З	259
Friendship PCS - Chamberlain Middle	6	Champions for Student Achievement	4 - 8	325
Friendship PCS - Collegiate Academy	7	Early College High School	9 - 12	553
Friendship PCS - Online Academy	4	Virtual School	K - 8	191
Friendship PCS - Southeast Elementary	8	Every Child Ready Instructional Approach	PK3 - 5	411
Friendship PCS - Southeast Middle	8	Every Child Ready Instructional Approach	5-7	179
Friendship PCS - Technology Preparatory High School	8	Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics (STEM) Focus	9 - 12	270
Friendship PCS - Technology Preparatory Middle School	8	Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics (STEM) Focus	6 - 8	259
Friendship PCS - Woodridge International Elementary	5	International Baccalaureate	PK3 - 3	305
Friendship PCS - Woodridge International Middle	5	International Baccalaureate	4 - 8	227
Harmony DC PCS - School of Excellence	5	Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Focus	K - 5	112
Hope Community PCS - Lamond	4	Expeditionary Learning (Art, Technology, Science Inquiry, and Music)	PK3 - 5	288
Hope Community PCS - Tolson	5	Expeditionary Learning (Art, Technology, Science Inquiry, and Music)	PK3 - 5	479
Howard University Middle School of Mathematics and Science PCS	1	Math and Science Focus	6 - 8	290
IDEA PCS	7	Leadership, Construction, and Design Focus; College Dual-Enrollment	9 - 12	326
Ingenuity Prep PCS	8	Civic Leadership; Blended Learning; Early Childhood	PK3 - 4	501
Inspired Teaching Demonstration PCS	5	Inquiry-Based, Whole Child, and Social Justice Focus	PK3 - 8	470
Kingsman Academy PCS	6	Project-Based; Personalized Learning	6 - 12	281
KIPP DC - AIM Academy PCS	8	High School Preparatory Curriculum; Leadership and Character Development	5 - 8	391
KIPP DC - Arts and Technology Academy PCS	7	Play-Based Academic and Social Emotional Learning Curriculum	РКЗ - К	348
KIPP DC - College Preparatory Academy PCS	5	Global Readiness Based Curriculum; Career and College Coaching; Advanced Placement Courses; Freshman Academies	9 - 12	802

2019 - 20

Pre-Kindergarten - 12th Grade (Continued) 2019-20						
SCHOOL NAME	WARD	PROGRAM TYPE	2019 - 20 GRADES	AUDITED ENROLLMENT		
KIPP DC - Connect Academy PCS	5	Play-Based Academic and Social Emotional Learning Curriculum	РКЗ - К	323		
KIPP DC - Discover Academy PCS	8	Play-Based Academic and Social Emotional Learning Curriculum	РКЗ - К	354		
KIPP DC - Grow Academy PCS	6	Play-Based Academic and Social Emotional Learning Curriculum	РКЗ - К	318		
KIPP DC - Heights Academy PCS	8	Rigorous Academic Curriculum; Character and Whole- Child Approach	1 - 4	462		
KIPP DC - KEY Academy PCS	7	High School Preparatory Curriculum; Leadership and Character Development	5 - 8	337		
KIPP DC - Lead Academy PCS	6	Rigorous Academic Curriculum; Character and Whole- Child Approach	1 - 4	400		
KIPP DC - LEAP Academy PCS	7	Play-Based Academic and Social Emotional Learning Curriculum	PK3 - PK4	195		
KIPP DC - Northeast Academy PCS	5	High School Preparatory Curriculum; Leadership and Character Development	5 - 8	329		
KIPP DC - Promise Academy PCS	7	Rigorous Academic Curriculum; Character and Whole- Child Approach	K - 4	518		
KIPP DC - Quest Academy PCS	7	Rigorous Academic Curriculum; Character and Whole- Child Approach	1 - 4	412		
KIPP DC - Spring Academy PCS	5	Rigorous Academic Curriculum; Character and Whole- Child Approach	1 - 4	411		
KIPP DC - Valor Academy PCS	7	High School Preparatory Curriculum; Leadership and Character Development	5 - 8	336		
KIPP DC - WILL Academy PCS	6	High School Preparatory Curriculum; Leadership and Character Development	5 - 8	328		
Latin American Montessori Bilingual PCS	4,5	Montessori; Language Immersion	РКЗ - 5	476		
Lee Montessori PCS	8	Montessori	РКЗ - РК4	n/a		
Lee Montessori PCS	5	Montessori	РКЗ - 4	210		
Mary McLeod Bethune Day Academy PCS	4,5	Arts Integration; Language Immersion; International Baccalaureate	PK3 - 8	413		
Maya Angelou PCS - High School	7	Blended and Individualized Learning; Socio-emotional Learning	9 - 12	201		
Meridian PCS	1	Interdisciplinary Curriculum	РКЗ - 8	642		
Monument Academy PCS	6	Boarding school and Wraparound with Foster Care/ At-Risk Focus	5 - 7	128		
Mundo Verde Bilingual PCS	5	Dual Language; Expeditionary Learning; Education for Sustainability Focus	PK3 - 5	594		
National Collegiate Preparatory PCHS*	8	International Baccalaureate; Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics Focus	9 - 12	250		
Paul PCS - International High School	4	Academics, Arts, Athletics, and Global Enrichment	9 - 12	465		
Paul PCS - Middle School	4	Academics, Arts, Athletics, and Global Enrichment	6 - 8	262		
Perry Street Preparatory PCS	5	Interdisciplinary Curriculum; Extended Academic Time	PK3 - 8	367		
Richard Wright PCS for Journalism and Media Arts	6	Journalism and Media Arts	8 - 12	299		

#### **Dre-Kindergarten - 12th Grade** (Continued)

\*School will close at the end of 2019-20 school year.

Pre-Kindergarten - 12th Grade (Continued) 2019 - 20 AUDITED 2019 - 20					
SCHOOL NAME	WARD	PROGRAM TYPE	GRADES	ENROLLMENT	
Rocketship PCS - Rise Academy	8	Personalized and Blended Learning	PK3 - 3	618	
Rocketship PCS - Legacy Prep	7	Personalized and Blended Learning	PK3 - 2	466	
Roots PCS	4	African Centered Curriculum	PK3 - 5	109	
SEED PCS of Washington DC	7	Boarding School	7-12	284	
Sela PCS	4	Language Immersion	РКЗ - 4	229	
Shining Stars Montessori Academy PCS	5	Montessori	PK3 - 6	281	
Statesmen College Preparatory Academy for Boys PCS	7	Boy-Friendly Academic Enviornment, Improving Academic Skills, Social Competencies, and Personal Development	4-5	54	
St. Coletta Special Education PCS	7	Special Education	Ages 3 - 22	250	
The Children's Guild DC PCS	5	Personalized Learning	K - 8	376	
Thurgood Marshall Academy PCS	8	Public Policy and Law Focus	9 - 12	392	
Two Rivers PCS - 4th Street	6	Expeditionary Learning	PK3 - 8	528	
Two Rivers PCS - Young	5	Expeditionary Learning	PK3 - 3	332	
Washington Global PCS	6	International Curriculum; Individualized Learning	6 - 8	216	
Washington Latin PCS - Middle School	4	Classical Education	5 - 8	370	
Washington Latin PCS - Upper School	4	Classical Education	9 - 12	328	
Washington Leadership Academy PCS	5	Tech; Coding; Computer Science; Leadership Development	9 - 10	306	
Washington Yu Ying PCS	5	Mandarin Chinese Language Immersion; International Baccalaureate	PK3 - 5	581	





#### **Adult Education**

Adult Education			GRADES	2019 - 20 AUDITED
SCHOOL NAME	WARD	PROGRAM TYPE	SERVED	ENROLLMENT
Briya PCS	5	Two-Generation Program; English as a Second Language; Child Development Associate; Medical Assistant	PK3 - PK4 & Adult	718
Carlos Rosario International PCS	5	Literacy; English as a Second Language; Computer Skills; Culinary Arts, Nurse Aide, GED and Citizenship Preparation	Adult	2137
Community College Preparatory Academy PCS	8	HVAC Training; National Customer Service; Computer Skills; CompTIA Help Desk; Microsoft Office Suite; Dual College Enrollment	Adult	617
Goodwill Excel Center PCS	2	Transportation Assistance; Child Care and Flexible Class Schedules	9 12	369
LAYC Career Academy PCS	1	Medical Assistant; Computer Skills; Dual Enrollment; GED Preparation; English as a Second Language; Literacy and Numeracy Skill Development	Adult	129
The Family Place PCS	1	ESL, Child Development Associate, Workforce Development, Spanish, Literacy, 2-Gen Approach	Adult	130
The Next Step/El Proximo Paso PCS	1	GED Preparation; English as a Second Language; Dual College Enrollment; Day and Evening Options; Transportation and Childcare Assistance	Adult	379
YouthBuild PCS	1	English as Second Language; Construction Education; Dual enrollment	Adult	122



# A RECORD OF SUCCESS: SCOTT PEARSON BIDS ADIEU

This is Scott Pearson's final annual report as he is leaving the DC Public Charter School Board after 8 and one-half years as Executive Director. Dr. Michelle Walker-Davis will take over for Mr. Pearson on August 10. 66

I'm proud of the work we've done. In the past 8 1/2 years, the Washington DC charter sector has become higher quality, more equitable, and a true partner across the city. We have demonstrated that public charter schools can realize their potential of improving public education, and, in the process, helping to revitalize the city.

- Scott Pearson, DC PCSB Executive Director



Looking back, Scott, the Board, and team have made significant improvements during his tenure to be a partner and increase the quality of public charter schools:

**46**<sup>%</sup>

of DC public school

41.1% in SY 2011-12.

students attend a charter

school today, compared to



# 11,923

more students attend a public charter school (Enrollment went from 31,562 in 2011-12 to 43,485 in 2019-20)

# 23,000+

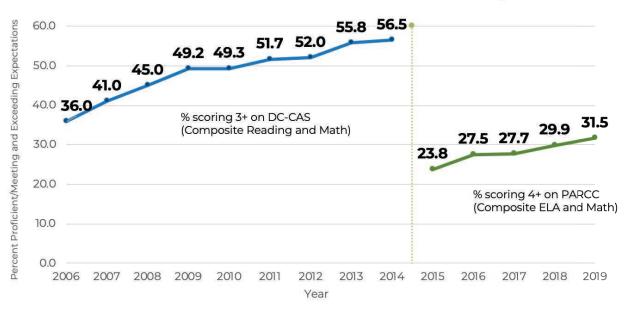
public charter school students attend a Tier 1 school, compared to roughly 6,000 in 2012



Expanded Accountability Measures to include Early childhood, alternative and adult schools

Developed and set new standards for measuring the financial health and progress

### Steady improvement in statewide achievement



Achievement Results for Public Charter School Students (2006-2019)

### Held schools accountable and closed those that failed to meet the academic and financial goals.

41

charter LEA or campuses closed between 2012 and 2020

24

quality public charter school programs expanded

Opened the first Montessori and bilingual East of the Anacostia River schools and the first trilingual high school to provide students and families with choice.



## School suspension and expulsion rates continue to decline

#### Out of school suspension rate Lost instructional time Lost instructional time Lost instructional time Lost instructional time 0.5% 0.0% 0.0% Expulsion rate Lost instructional time 0.5% 0.0% 0.

### 96,000+ pages on our website

Infused transparency into everything we do, sharing an unprecedented amount of information about our work.

Testified at 50+ DC Council Hearings

### 96% of schools have a school nurse or mental health clinician

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C Thank you for the support you provided to Mary McLeod Bethune Day Academy PCS. Thank you for the school visits and seeing our vision – making school meaningful and engaging for all students. "The voice of the intellect is a soft one, but it does not rest until it has gained a hearing" Sigmund Freud.

-Linda McKay, Executive Director, Mary McLeod Bethune Day Academy PCS















DC PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL BOARD

66

As a parent of school-aged children, I know from experience that most parents aren't choosing between traditional and public charter schools," said Dr. Walker-Davis. "Parents want schools that can successfully and effectively educate their children -schools that fit different learning styles, cultures, and interests.

- Dr. Walker-Davis, Incoming Executive Director



Dr. Walker-Davis brings over 20 years of deep expertise in school administration, education policy, nonprofit management, and community outreach. She spent seven years early in her career working in the District on education. She was the senior advisor on education to former Mayor Anthony Williams, chief of strategic planning and policy for DCPS, and worked in the District's Office of Budget and Planning. She has a Doctor of Education from Columbia University.

As a first-generation African-American of Caribbean descent, and before becoming the Executive Director of the DC Public Charter School Board, Dr. Walker-Davis was the previous Executive Director of Generation Next, a coalition of civic, business, and education leaders from across Minneapolis and Saint Paul, MN, dedicated to closing achievement and opportunity

gaps. The organization uses rigorous data analysis and community engagement to identify what works and replicate the most promising practices.

We're very #DCCharterProud to welcome Dr. Walker-Davis to the DC Public Charter School Board!



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