



Annual Report

School Year 2021-2022

Digital Pioneers Academy PCS
Mary K. Wells, Board Chair
Mashea M. Ashton, CEO & Principal
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Annual Report Narrative

School Description

Mission Statement

The mission of Digital Pioneers Academy (DPA) is to develop the next generation of innovators. We prepare students to meet or exceed the highest academic standards, while cultivating the strength of character necessary to both graduate from four-year colleges and thrive in 21st century careers.

School Program

DPA will ultimately be a college preparatory middle and high school (6th-12th grade) for students from Ward 7 and 8 in Washington, DC. Beginning with sixth grade and adding one grade per year, DPA provides a unique, personalized educational experience that integrates best practices from schools across the country, preparing students to be innovators and active citizens in our technology-driven world. DPA's learning model will leverage a curriculum built around traditional subjects with the critical inclusion of Computer Science as a core content area. Through core classes and personalized, project-based work, students will develop computational thinking skills, a set of capabilities that can be flexibly applied to succeed in four-year college and in a variety of fields. In addition to rigorous academics and project-based learning, our innovative approach focuses on character building and developing the social and emotional capacities of our students.

Computer Science is not just about teaching students to code. As the foundation for all computing, computer science is defined as “the study of computers and algorithmic processes, including their principles, their hardware and software designs, their applications, and their impact on society.” Through helping students understand why and how computers work, computer science provides the basis for a deep understanding of computer use and the relevant rights, responsibilities, and applications. Computer Science builds on computer literacy, educational technology, digital citizenship, and information technology.

Our middle school classrooms are “semi self-contained.” All students have their core academic instruction in a self-contained classroom with co-teachers. The benefit of the two-teacher model is that we can have the best of both worlds. Two adults can share the rigors of deep instruction over the course of the day. One teacher in the classroom will be a math, science, and computer science expert; the other teacher will be an expert in English language arts and social studies. By having this “semi self-contained” model, our teachers can be deep content experts, while forging meaningful, lasting relationships with adolescents, who most need that sort of attention. In addition, the teachers will be able to be special education teachers, teachers across the grade level, and administration to provide appropriate interventions for students who are struggling or may have special education needs. There may be up to 25 total students in each classroom, and the student to teacher ratio will be less than 13:1. At the high school level, our students travel in cohorts but have a different teacher for each subject. Courses include math,

ELA, social studies, science, computer science and Spanish. In high school, our average class size is less than 20 students.

Digital Pioneers Academy views families as partners in our school community. Families are constantly engaged for feedback and support. Whether it is deciding our uniform policies, giving feedback on school events, or supporting the design of our proposed high school, we engage our families as partners in our journey together. DPA has an open door policy for all family engagements that do not create intrusions to the learning environment.

School Performance

Performance and Progress

Digital Pioneers Academy has made substantive progress towards our mission of developing the next generation of innovators. In SY21-22, we launched our high school and introduced a new class of 6th graders to students in grades six through nine. SY21-22 also marked our return to in-person learning. Our model is designed to prepare scholars to graduate high school having met or exceeded the highest academic expectations and demonstrating the character strengths to thrive in 21st century careers.

To prepare scholars to meet the highest academic standards, we have partnered with leading curriculum providers nationally to train our staff and implement our core curriculum of English Language Arts, Mathematics, and Computer Science. Complementarily, we use the NWEA MAP and ANET assessments to measure both academic growth and scholars' grade levels in reading and math. Although we could not administer these assessments to their totality in SY19-20 and SY20-21 because of the disruption of the pandemic, our diligence in transferring our rigorous curriculum online supported our transition back to in-person learning.

To cultivate the strengths of character necessary to thrive in 21st century careers, we have established a Known-Loved-Respected community rooted in our core values of Innovation, Integrity, Growth, Results, Optimism, and Empathy. Our community stands out in our strength of scholar-teacher relationships and developing efficacy, as reflected in our Panorama survey results. Among peer schools, our school culture was a leader in Cultural and Linguistic Competence, Engagement, Learning Strategies, Rigorous Expectations, Sense of Belonging, and Teacher-Student Relationships. Our school culture is the heart of our progress towards our mission, equipping scholars with the support network, intrinsic values, and high expectations for self to be leaders.

DPA has accepted the Performance Management Framework (PMF) as its adopted goals and metrics, and DPA also uses the DC STAR Framework to evaluate comparative performance across all DC schools. The COVID-19 pandemic prevented DPA from administering PARCC for SY19-20 and SY20-21. DPA administered PARCC for the first time in three years in Spring 2022. For SY21-22, for ELA, 15% of DPA scholars were meeting or exceeding expectations

and 39% received a 3+ on their scores. For Math, 9% of DPA scholars were meeting or exceeding expectations and 28% received a 3+ on their scores. While we have not yet reached our goals of 60%, we were heartened to have our high school recognized as a Bold Performance School by EmpowerK12 for demonstrating proficiency rates for students at least 5.5 percentage points higher than how schools with similar demographics achieved pre-pandemic.

Unique Accomplishments

Digital Pioneers Academy High School was named a Bold Performance School by EmpowerK12 for the 2021-22 School Year. Bold Performance Schools serve a high at-risk student population and have combined math and English language arts proficiency rates dramatically higher than schools with similar demographics. Selected schools in 2021-22 had proficiency rates for students at least 5.5 percentage points higher than how schools with similar demographics achieved pre-pandemic.

List of Donors with Gifts Equalling or Exceeding \$500

Individual Donors

- Sara Batterton
- John and Mary Anne Gamba
- Kyle Hjelmeseth
- Tyra Mariani
- Faith Rivers
- Sherman Whites Jr

Organizations/Foundations

- Benevity Fund
- CityBridge Education
- Education Forward DC
- James & Alice B. Clark Foundation
- Marriott Foundation
- NewSchools Venture Fund

School Year (SY) 2021-22 Annual Report: Campus Data Report

Source	Data Point
PCSB	LEA Name: Digital Pioneers Academy PCS
PCSB	Campus Name: Digital Pioneers Academy PCS - Capitol Hill
PCSB	Grades served: 9
PCSB	Overall Audited Enrollment: 119

Enrollment by grade level according to OSSE's Audited Enrollment Report

Grade	PK3	PK4	KG	1	2	3	4	5	6
Student Count	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Grade	7	8	9	10	11	12	Altern-ative	Adult	SPED*
Student Count	0	0	119	0	0	0	0	0	0

*Note: This field is only filled in for St. Coletta Special Education PCS as it is the only charter LEA that exclusively serves students with disabilities.

Student Data Points

School	Total number of instructional days: 168 Number of instructional days, not including holidays or professional development days, for the majority of the school. If your school has certain grades with different calendars, please note it.
PCSB	Suspension Rate: 27.70%
PCSB	Expulsion Rate: 0.00%
PCSB	Instructional Time Lost to Out-of-School Suspensions: 0.84%
PCSB	In-Seat Attendance: 72.50%
PCSB	Average Daily Attendance: The SRA requires annual reports to include a school's average daily membership. To meet this requirement, PCSB will provide following verified data points: (1) audited enrollment; (2) mid-year withdrawals; and (3) mid-year entries. (No action necessary.)
PCSB	Midyear Withdrawals: 8.40% (10 students)*
PCSB	Midyear Entries: 4.20% (5 students)*
PCSB	Promotion Rate (LEA): Not Applicable
School (SY20-21)	College Acceptance Rate: Not Applicable

School (SY20-21)	College Admission Test Score: Not Applicable
PCSB (SY20-21)	Graduation Rate: N/A

Faculty and Staff Data Points

School	Teacher Attrition Rate: 33%
School	Number of Teachers: 6 "Teacher" is defined as any adult responsible for the instruction of students at least 50% of the time, including, but not limited to, lead teachers, teacher residents, special education teachers, and teacher fellows.
School	Teacher Salary: Average: \$ 80,755 Range -- Minimum: \$ 65,500 Maximum: \$ 100,000
School	Executive Compensation: See appendices. Salaries (including bonuses) of the five most highly-compensated individuals in the organization, if over \$100,000, for SY 2021-22.

*Notes:

- The provided in-seat attendance rates align to the in-seat attendance rates available in OSSE's SY21-22 Charter Sector Attendance Qlik application as of August 2022. However, the validated rates that schools will confirm with OSSE during Metric Calculation Confirmation this fall may vary slightly.
- Unvalidated MYW and MYE rates are provided based on examining student movement between 10/6 and 5/31 in SY 2021-22, attempting to mimic the DC School Report Card business rules as closely as possible. However, the validated student mobility rates that schools will confirm with OSSE during Metric Calculation Confirmation this fall may vary slightly.

School Year (SY) 2021-22 Annual Report: Campus Data Report

Source	Data Point
PCSB	LEA Name: Digital Pioneers Academy PCS
PCSB	Campus Name: Digital Pioneers Academy PCS - Johenning
PCSB	Grades served: 6--8
PCSB	Overall Audited Enrollment: 340

Enrollment by grade level according to OSSE's Audited Enrollment Report

Grade	PK3	PK4	KG	1	2	3	4	5	6
Student Count	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	115
Grade	7	8	9	10	11	12	Altern- ative	Adult	SPED*
Student Count	113	112	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

*Note: This field is only filled in for St. Coletta Special Education PCS as it is the only charter LEA that exclusively serves students with disabilities.

Student Data Points

School	Total number of instructional days: 170 Number of instructional days, not including holidays or professional development days, for the majority of the school. If your school has certain grades with different calendars, please note it.
PCSB	Suspension Rate: 12.60%
PCSB	Expulsion Rate: 0.00%
PCSB	Instructional Time Lost to Out-of-School Suspensions: 0.27%
PCSB	In-Seat Attendance: 70.80%
PCSB	Average Daily Attendance: The SRA requires annual reports to include a school's average daily membership. To meet this requirement, PCSB will provide following verified data points: (1) audited enrollment; (2) mid-year withdrawals; and (3) mid-year entries. (No action necessary.)
PCSB	Midyear Withdrawals: 5.30% (18 students)*
PCSB	Midyear Entries: 2.10% (7 students)*
PCSB	Promotion Rate (LEA): 100.00%
School (SY20-21)	College Acceptance Rate: Not applicable

School (SY20-21)	College Admission Test Score: Not applicable
PCSB (SY20-21)	Graduation Rate: N/A

Faculty and Staff Data Points

School	Teacher Attrition Rate: 50%
School	Number of Teachers: 30 "Teacher" is defined as any adult responsible for the instruction of students at least 50% of the time, including, but not limited to, lead teachers, teacher residents, special education teachers, and teacher fellows.
School	Teacher Salary: Average: \$ 70,994 Range -- Minimum: \$ 57,000 Maximum: \$ 100,000
School	Executive Compensation: See appendices. Salaries (including bonuses) of the five most highly-compensated individuals in the organization, if over \$100,000, for SY 2021-22.

*Notes:

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Appendices

2021-22 Executive Compensation:

Mashea Ashton, CEO & Principal: \$235,000

Erin Swide, Director of Operations: \$110,000

Norma Brown, Director of Curriculum, \$145,000

Erum Siddiqui, Assistant Principal, \$105,000

Dietra Hunter, Assistant Principal \$105,000

2021-22 Staff Roster

First Name	Last Name	Position	Qualifications
Maymuna	Abdi	STEM Teacher	Masters
Azmi	Abusam	STEM Teacher	Masters
Katie	Adenrele	AP 8th	Masters
Chelsea	Allen	AP 9th - Hum	Bachelors
Mashea	Ashton	Principal	Masters
Divinda	Augustin-Willis	AP 6th	Masters
Amber	Austin	HUM Teacher	Masters
Jacqueline	Baron	Social Worker	Masters
Samia	Billups	HUM Teacher	Bachelors
Alexis	Brown	DCI	Bachelors
Kim	Burton	Hum Teacher	Bachelors
Terrell	Buyck	KLR Team Member	Bachelors
Devante	Caldwell	KLR Team Member	Masters
Michael	Custance	STEM Teacher	Masters
Corey	Fields	Ops Associate	Bachelors
John	Fuller	Social Worker	Masters
Henry	Garcia	HS Spanish Teacher	Masters
Nate	Gilbert	Technology Specialist	Bachelors
Re'Shae	Green	HUM Teacher	Bachelors
Kyle	Hall	HUM Teacher	Bachelors
Gloria	Harding	STEM Teacher	Masters
Kiyah	Holloman	KLR Team Member	Bachelors
Brittany	Hudzick	KLR Team Member	HS Dipoma
Mariah	Hudzick	STEM Teacher	Masters
Sam	Hughes	HUM Teacher	Masters
Trevon	Hughes	HUM Teacher	Bachelors
Dietra	Hunter	AP 7th	Masters
Alexis	Kelly	STEM Teacher	Bachelors
Keia	Kelly	KLR Team Member	HS Dipoma
Sherree	Lancaster	Ops Team	HS Dipoma
Teandra	Lowe	STEM Teacher	Masters

First Name	Last Name	Position	Qualifications
Alfred	Mason	Ops Team	Bachelors
Julia	Matthews	HUM Teacher	Bachelors
Whitney	McArthur	STEM Teacher	Masters
Jonathan	Mevs	CS Teacher	Masters
Tarneil	Miller	KLR Team Member	Bachelors
Corey	Muse	STEM Teacher	Bachelors
Christina	Noto	STEM Teacher	Bachelors
Hermann	Noujda	HUM Teacher	Bachelors
Mariam	Ogunsaya	HUM Teacher	Bachelors
Amanze	Onyewuchi	HUM Teacher	Masters
Paige	Parker	HUM Teacher	Masters
Syndia	Payne	HUM Teacher	Masters
Shawn	Pelote	KLR Team Member	Bachelors
MJ	Reynolds	KLR Team Member	Bachelors
David	Roberts	HS Science Teacher	Bachelors
Erin	Roberts	Hum Teacher	Bachelors
Josh	Roe	HS ELA Teacher	Bachelors
Peter	Savedge	HUM Teacher	Masters
Demetrius	Seay	STEM Teacher	Masters
Erum	Siddiqui	STEM Teacher	Bachelors
DeShawn	Singleton	KLR Team Member	Bachelors
Sam	Sokoloff	HUM Teacher	Bachelors
Shelby	Stanley	STEM Teacher	Bachelors
Erin	Swide	Ops Team	Masters
Bridget	Walsh	STEM Teacher	Masters
Rukiya	Ware	STEM Teacher	Bachelors
Aliss	Williams	KLR Team Member	Bachelors
Brianey	Winslow	KLR Team Member	Masters
Amaia	Wright	KLR Team Member	HS Dipoma

2021-22 Board Roster

Mary Wells - Board Chair, non- DC resident
 Orlena Nwokah Blanchard, Vice Chair, non- DC resident
 Sara Batterton - Treasurer, DC Resident
 Mashea Ashton - Founder and CEO, non- DC resident
 Dr. Legand Burge - Voting Board Member, DC Resident
 Chase Glass - Voting Board Member, Parent, DC Resident
 Henry Hipps - Voting Board Member, DC Resident
 Kevjorik Jones - Voting Board Member, DC Resident
 Paul O'Neill - Voting Board Member, non- DC Resident

Unaudited 2021-22 Financial Statement

FY22 Budget

Digital Pioneers Academy

SY21-22		
Revenue		
State and Local Revenue	9,561,739	
Federal Revenue	2,557,916	
Private Grants and Donation	1,198,993	
Earned Fees	7,992	
Revenue Total	13,326,640	
Expenses		
Salaries	6,048,860	
Benefits and Taxes	1,575,489	
Contracted Staff	-	
Staff-Related Costs	138,894	
Rent	1,233,157	
Occupancy Service	745,819	
Direct Student Expense	1,087,505	
Office & Business Expense	656,971	
Contingency	133,266	
Expenses Total	11,619,962	
NET ORDINARY INCOME	1,706,678	
Extraordinary Expenses		
Depreciation and Amortizatic	818,343	
Interest	27,043	
Extraordinary Expenses Tota	845,386	
TOTAL EXPENSES	12,465,347	
NET INCOME	861,292	

Income Statement

July 2021 through June 2022

Year-To-Date	
Income Statement	Actual
Revenue	
State and Local Revenue	10,090,158
Federal Revenue	2,796,095
Private Grants and Donations	1,202,700
Earned Fees	128,882
Total Revenue	14,217,835
Expenses	
Salaries	5,207,538
Benefits and Taxes	1,257,674
Contracted Staff	0
Staff-Related Costs	353,491
Rent	1,334,151
Occupancy Service	1,120,055
Direct Student Expense	2,051,502
Office & Business Expense	1,620,985
Contingency	0
Total Expenses	12,945,397
Operating Income	1,272,437
Extraordinary Expenses	
Interest	16,580
Depreciation and Amortization	1,543,419
Total Extraordinary Expenses	1,559,998
Net Income	(287,561)
Cash Flow Statement	
Actual	
Net Income	(287,561)
Cash Flow Adjustments	
Add Depreciation	1,543,419
Operating Fixed Assets	(472,604)
Other Operating Activities	(1,038,405)
Per-Pupil Adjustments	1
Suspense	0
Restricted Equity	(334,850)
Unrestricted Equity	334,850
Facilities Project Adjustments	(873,310)
Total Cash Flow Adjustments	(840,900)
Change in Cash	(1,128,461)

Balance Sheet

July 2021 to June 2022

Balance Sheet	
Assets	Year End
Assets	
Current Assets	
Cash	708,677
Accounts Receivable	2,089,008
Other Current Assets	288,390
Intercompany Transfers	0
Total Current Assets	3,086,075
Noncurrent Assets	
Facilities, Net	409,074
Operating Fixed Assets, Net	665,257
Total Noncurrent Assets	1,074,331
Total Assets	4,160,406
Liabilities and Equity	
Liabilities and Equity	Year End
Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	571,065
Other Current Liabilities	35,860
Accrued Salaries and Benefits	247,106
Total Current Liabilities	854,032
Equity	
Unrestricted Net Assets	1,611,820
Net Income	(287,561)
Temporarily Restricted Net Assets	250,000
Total Equity	1,574,259
Long-Term Liabilities	
Senior Debt	754,020
Subdebt	
Other Long-Term Liabilities	978,095
Total Long-Term Liabilities	1,732,115
Total Liabilities and Equity	4,160,406

Approved 2022-2023 Budget

FY23 Budget

Digital Pioneers Academy

SY22-23		
Revenue		
State and Local Revenue	13,044,472	
Federal Revenue	3,068,273	
Private Grants and Donations	1,278,165	
Earned Fees	462	
Revenue Total	17,391,372	
Expenses		
Salaries	6,936,539	
Benefits and Taxes	1,818,492	
Contracted Staff	-	
Staff-Related Costs	299,735	
Rent	2,250,619	
Occupancy Service	1,519,027	
Direct Student Expense	2,124,262	
Office & Business Expense	1,845,564	
Contingency	100,538	
Expenses Total	16,894,777	
NET ORDINARY INCOME	496,595	
Extraordinary Expenses		
Depreciation and Amortization	428,762	
Interest	17,075	
Extraordinary Expenses Total	445,837	
TOTAL EXPENSES	17,340,614	
NET INCOME	50,758	