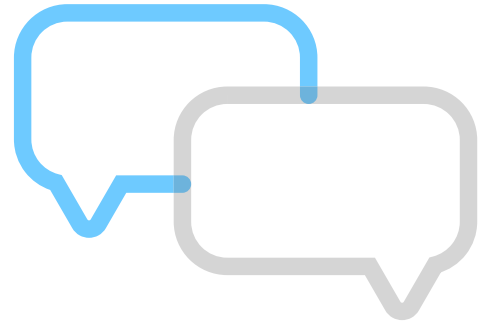


# Spring 2021 Family Listening Key Takeaways



Throughout April and May, DC Public Schools hosted 7 virtual Family Listening Sessions to:

- Gather feedback on the family experience over the last year
- Build confidence and trust through listening and honest dialogue
- Understand what families need to see and hear from DCPS to feel comfortable and excited about sending their child back in person for SY21-22

The goal of the Family Listening Sessions was to hear from a diverse group of families with students at different grade levels in different parts of the city who may not typically have their voices elevated. The below reflects the main themes from the 7 listening sessions.

## Schools we heard from...



**HD Woodson HS**  
Ward 7



**Roosevelt HS**  
Ward 4



**Walker-Jones EC**  
Ward 6



**LaSalle-Backus EC**  
Ward 4



**Wheatley EC**  
Ward 5



**Stanton ES**  
Ward 8



**Patterson ES**  
Ward 8

## How families feel...



Families are overwhelmed and tired. Navigating the pandemic and learning at home has been challenging for all. Many school communities have also experienced significant COVID loss.

Families are grateful for school supports and partnerships with their child's teachers. Trusting relationships have made all the difference during a very difficult year.



Families agree that children learn best (academically and socio-emotionally) in person. This is especially true for our youngest learners and students with IEPs.

Some families raised questions about vaccination policies for students next school year.



## What families need to see and hear from DCPS to feel comfortable sending their children back in person in the fall...



- Open and regular communication
- Details around safety and cleaning protocols
- Clear expectations for in-person learning (especially for ECE and students with IEPs)



- Classroom set-ups and building readiness walkthroughs
- Communities and families working together to keep schools safe and welcoming for all students