DCPS Monthly Telephone Townhall Updates
February 2022

Servicios de interpretación al español disponibles: https://tinyurl.com/dcpsespanol
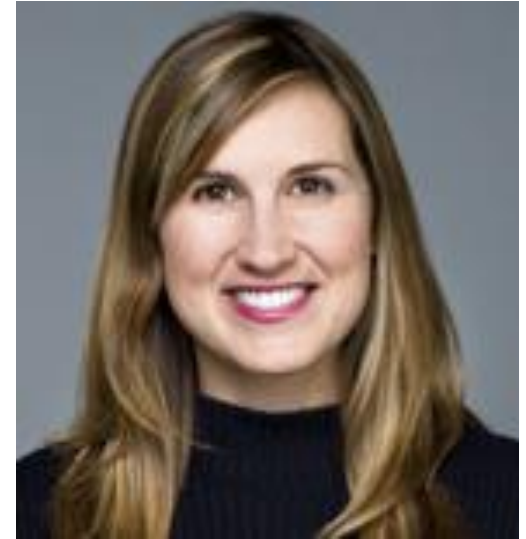
Thank You for Joining Us

DCPS is prioritizing the health and safety of all our students!

Lewis D. Ferebee
Chancellor
DC Public Schools

Bren Elliott
School Improvement & Supports
DC Public Schools

Jessica Jennings
Communications
DC Public Schools

Happy Valentine's Day!

A CAPITAL COMMITMENT

In shaping DC Public Schools' five-year strategic plan for 2017-2022, A Capital Commitment, we heard from more than 4,500 students, parents, educators, and community members. Their ideas and feedback will guide our work as we strive to become a district of both excellence and equity—a place where every family feels welcome and every child is given the opportunities and support they need to thrive.

VISION:

Every student feels loved, challenged, and prepared to positively influence society and thrive in life.

MISSION:

Ensure that every school guarantees students reach their full potential through rigorous and joyful learning experiences provided in a nurturing environment.

*Every student feels **loved, challenged, and prepared** to positively influence society and thrive in life.*

DCPS Fiscal Year 2023 (FY23) Budget Highlights

FY23 SCHOOL BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

The FY23 initial budgets for each DCPS school continues the historic investment Mayor Bowser is making in education.

- No school receives less than their FY22 submitted budget.

- A new Recovery Fund provides stability and additional funding to ensure schools can maximize their buying power for FY23.

- Schools will receive funding aligned to their student enrollment and level of need and will also receive additional funds to support students with greater needs.
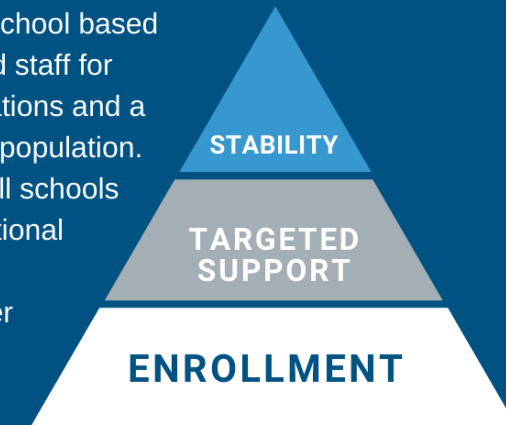
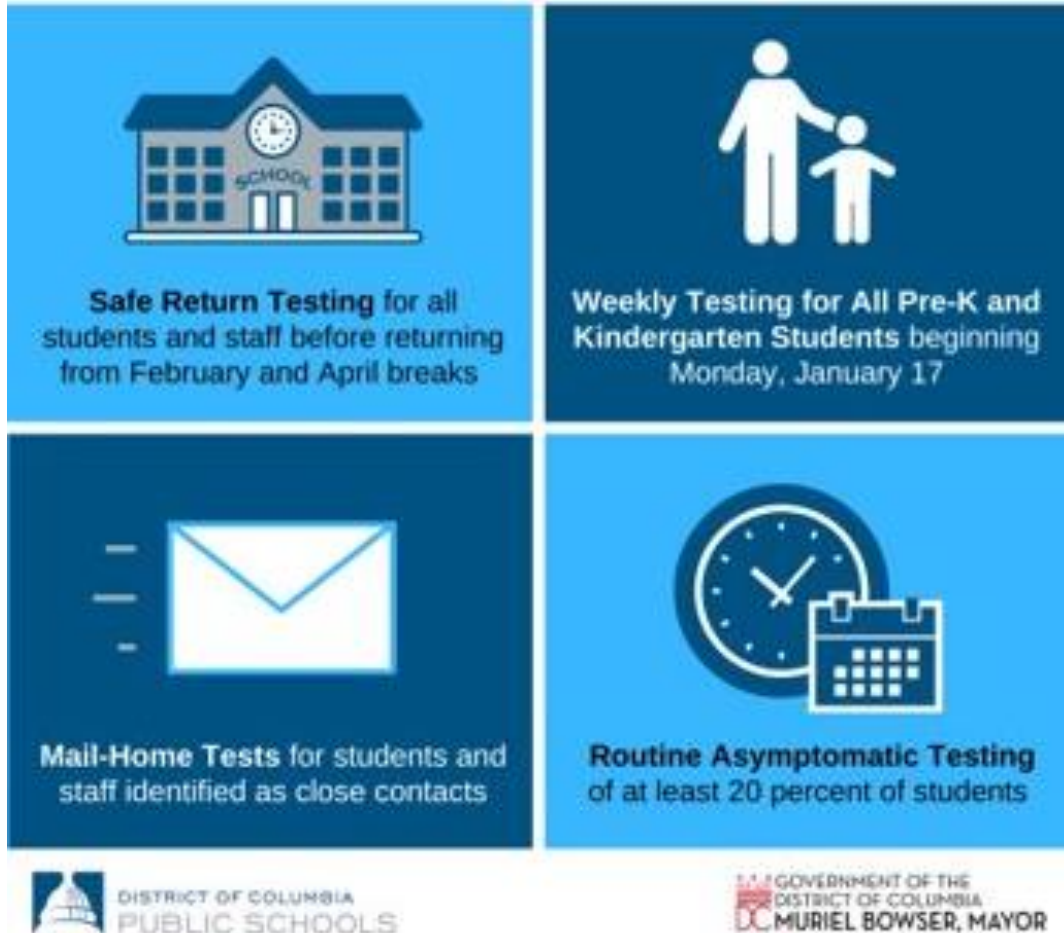Visit **dcpsbudget.com** to learn more about the school budget planning process.

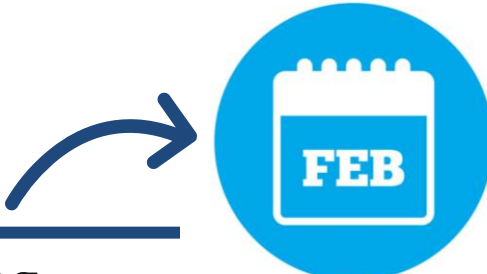## FY23 SCHOOL BUDGET FUNDING CATEGORIES

The updated DCPS school budget model is based on student enrollment, targeted need, and year-over-year stability.

Funds are distributed to a school based on its students and required staff for both special student populations and a school's general education population. Stability funds will ensure all schools can afford important educational services for their students, especially through year-over enrollment transitions.

STABILITY

TARGETED SUPPORT

ENROLLMENT

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

GOVERNMENT OF THE
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
MURIEL BOWSER, MAYOR

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

GOVERNMENT OF THE
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
MURIEL BOWSER, MAYOR

DCPS COVID-19 Screening and Testing Protocols

Safe Return Testing for all students and staff before returning from February and April breaks

Weekly Testing for All Pre-K and Kindergarten Students beginning Monday, January 17

Mail-Home Tests for students and staff identified as close contacts

Routine Asymptomatic Testing of at least 20 percent of students

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA MURIEL BOWSER, MAYOR

FEB

1. Safe Return Testing
2. Early Childhood Weekly Testing
3. Mail-Home Testing for Close Contacts
4. Routine Asymptomatic Testing

Safe Return Testing- Proof of a Negative Test is Required: February Break Update

Safe Return Testing for all students and staff before returning from February and April breaks

Maintaining the health, safety, and well-being of our staff, students, and families is our top priority. In collaboration with our health partners, it was determined that requiring 100% of students and staff to test prior to returning to school was a critical strategy to reducing the spread of COVID in our schools.

DC HEALTH SECURE LINK
GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
DC MURIEL BOWSER, MAYOR

COVID-19 Test Self Reporting Portal

Please complete the form below to report COVID-19 test results. Upon completion of the form, a member of DC Health may contact you.

First Name *

Last Name *

Phone *
Provide a telephone number

Student or Staff *

Email *

School (type to search and then select) *
Please provide 3 or more characters of the school's name.

iHealth®
COVID-19
Antigen Rapid Test

FDA Emergency Use Authorization

Self-Test At Home Results In 15 Mins

Test to Return Process Overview

🏛️#**Safe**Return   🏛️#**Safe**Return   🏛️#**Safe**Return   🏛️#**Safe**Return

1

Pick up a COVID-19 rapid antigen test at your school.

Tests will be distributed on Friday, February 18.

You can also pick up a rapid test at other public sites around the city.

Updated 2/14/22

2

Take the at-home test on Sunday, February 27

Follow the instructions provided in your kit.

Updated 2/14/2

3

Upload proof of your negative test results to dcps.dc.gov/safereturn by Sunday, February 27 at 9:00 pm.

Set a reminder on your calendar to complete this step!

Updated 2/14/22

4

Continue to monitor for any symptoms of COVID-19.

Get vaccinated.

Receive your booster.

Wear a mask.

Stay home if you are feeling sick.

Reporting Your Child's Test Results

Problems submitting the results?
- ✓ Call (202) 442-5885
- ✓ Press 1 to be connected to the DCPS Family & Student Tech Call Center.

Visit dcpsreopenstrong.com/safereturn by 9:00 pm on Sunday, February 27

Enter your child's name, address, a contact email, a contact phone number, their school, the date of their test and their test results

Upload a photo or pdf of your results

What if my child tests positive?

✓ Please upload your positive results in the database and begin isolating immediately.

✓ All individuals regardless of vaccination status or recent COVID infections must isolate, if they test positive.

✓ There is no option to reverse a positive test result with additional testing.

When can my child return to school, if they test positive for COVID?

✓ Your isolation period may be different based on the severity of your COVID infection and whether you participate in additional testing.

✓ Individuals with severe or critical COVID illness or are immunocompromised **must isolate at least 10 days from when symptoms first started.** Please follow the advice of your health care provider.

No Symptoms (Asymptomatic Infection)	Mild to Moderate COVID with Symptoms
• **After 7 days from onset of symptoms, if able to wear a well-fitting mask.** • **After 10 days from onset of symptoms if not able to wear a well-fitting mask.**	**Fever-free for at least 24 hours (without use of fever reducing med) and symptoms are improving AND negative test on day 5 or later.** • **After 7 days from onset of symptoms if able to wear a well-fitting mask.** • **After 10 days from onset of symptoms if not able to wear a well-fitting mask.**

If you receive a positive test on day 5 or later OR if no antigen test is taken on day 5 or later, you MUST isolate at least 10 days from when symptoms first started or initial positive test.

If you were initially asymptomatic and start to have symptoms, your isolation period starts over from the date of onset of symptoms.

We are expanding Pre-K Test to Stay for all positive cases in Pre-K classes.

✓ Over the last few weeks, we have been utilizing a test-to-stay protocol for a limited number of positive cases in classrooms with our youngest learners who are not yet eligible for the life-saving vaccine.

✓ **Effective February 10, if any positive COVID-19 case is reported in a Pre-K classroom, all students in that classroom will participate in the test-to-stay pilot.**

✓ The test-to-stay pilot program is designed to keep our youngest learners safely in the classroom with rigorous testing while limiting the disruption that classroom closures have on families. However, there may be times when operational impacts may still require a class to transition to virtual learning for a period.

✓ As a reminder, all students who are fully vaccinated and have no symptoms may continue to attend school in-person if they are identified as a close contact, unless a class must move to virtual learning due to operational impacts. We encourage all eligible students to get vaccinated to avoid serious illness and be able to continue attending school in-person.

Pre-K Test-to-Stay Pilot Expands

SUNDAY

All prekindergarten students are required to test at home.

MONDAY

A new positive case is reported at school.

TUESDAY

Students in the impacted classroom are tested at school.

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

If a student tests positive in Tuesday's follow-up testing, the class will be tested again on Thursday.
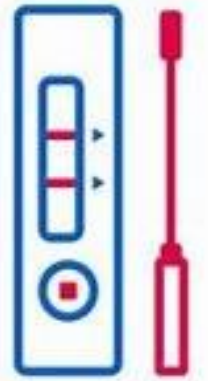
FRIDAY

All prekindergarten students are sent home with test kits to take on Sunday.

Test Kits & Mask Distribution Update

> **Over 300K test kits have been delivered to schools** to support ECE weekly testing, test-to-stay operations, and test-to-return operations at all schools after the February Winter Break and April Spring Break.

✓ **Test-to-Stay for schools with PK3 and PK4 Students:** Schools received 20 kits per enrolled PK3 and PK4 student. This supply will ensure each student receives 3 tests weekly in line with current test to stay guidance.

✓ **Test-to-Return for all Schools:** Schools received 2 kits per enrolled students in grades K-12 and **all staff, partners, and contractors**. This will ensure that staff and students take a test prior to return the day after the week-long break.

  • For the February and April test-to-return operations, schools will be expected to distribute test kits to students during the days before the break begins. Unlike the holiday test-to-return operations, schools will not distribute test kits to any DCPS student or family member – only to enrolled students.

✓ **KN 95 Masks**: DCPS distributed sufficient KN95 masks to schools to support weekly distribution to teachers through April 18, 2022.

DC Health released new guidance on 2/1.
We are tracking towards high-level implementation **after February break**.

Key Updates include:

1. PCR **AND** rapid antigen tests can now be used for close contacts to return from quarantine. Staff and students who are close contacts of someone with confirmed COVID-19, **regardless of their vaccination status should get a COVID test 5 days after the date they were exposed.** **(As a reminder, any individual that is identified as a close contacts can have two PCR test mailed to their home.)**

2. **Persons, who have had COVID in the last 90 days and are asymptomatic,** do not have to quarantine if identified a close contact.

3. **A person who tests positive for COVID can end isolation after 7 days** (previously 10 days) and return, if fever/symptom free for at least 24 hours without the aid of medication AND has taken and received a negative antigen test, unless the person had severe COVID and/or is immuno-compromised.

DC Health released new guidance on 2/1.
We are tracking towards high-level implementation **after February break**.

Key Updates include:

4. **Test To Stay programs** can be used as a strategy to keep individuals that normally would be required to quarantine, safely in schools.

5. **There is absolutely no option to reverse a positive test result with additional testing.** Anyone with a positive test result must not attend school and must begin isolation.
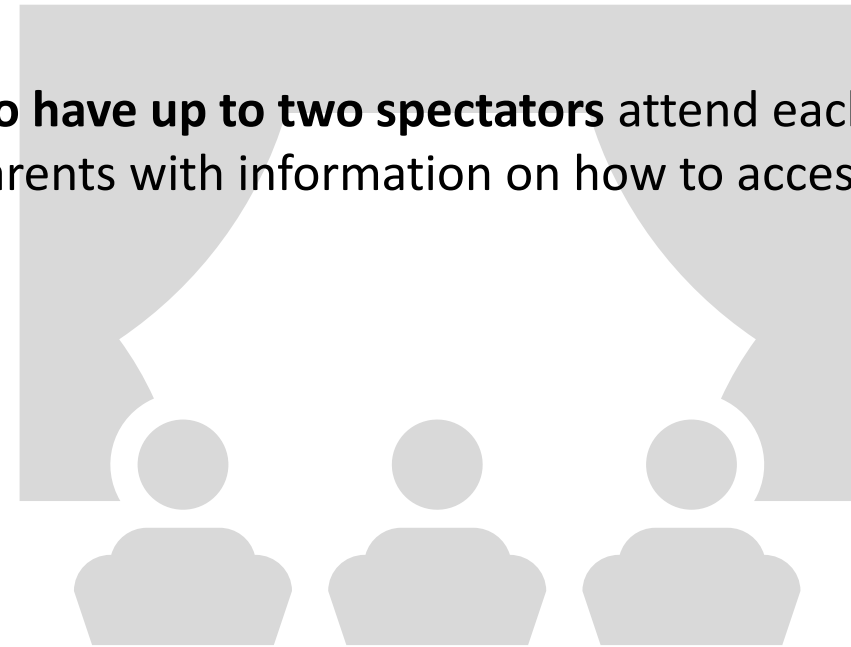
6. Adults and students (18+) who are eligible must have received the booster to be considered "up-to-date". **Adults and students who are not fully vaccinated (up-to date) would have to quarantine, if identified as a close contact.**
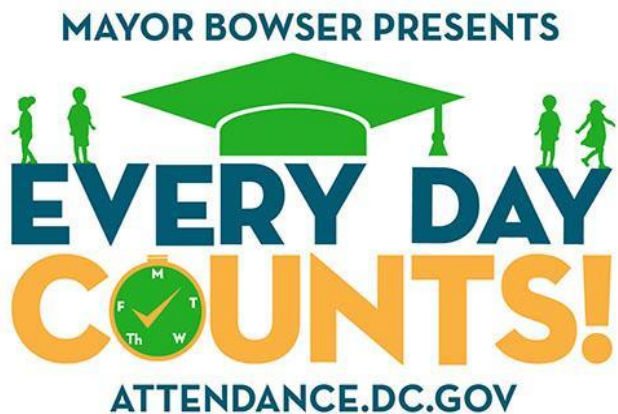
Audience and Spectator Guidance

For any DCPS athletic event, arts performance or student showcase, it is important to balance maintaining social distancing guidelines and wanting our students to enjoy the support of having their families and community in attendance at special moments.

✓ At this time, **each student participant will be able to have up to two spectators** attend each event.
✓ Athletic directors or event organizers will provide parents with information on how to access tickets or attendance lists as needed.
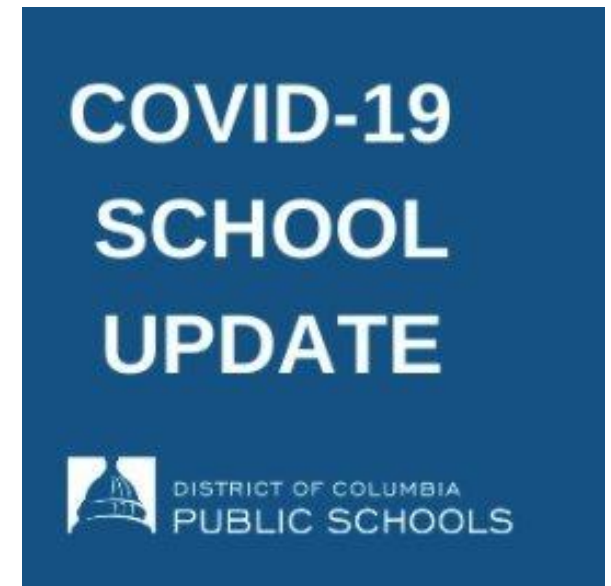
Attendance Reporting During a Quarantine

✓ For students who are required to quarantine but not at the direction of DCPS (e.g., because a family member tested positive for COVID-19 and they were contacted by a contact tracer), the parent/guardian must provide written documentation of the quarantine.

✓ The written note must include the date of COVID-19 exposure; the length of time the student has been directed to quarantine by a medical professional or contact tracer; and the name, organization, and contact information of the medical professional or contract tracer.
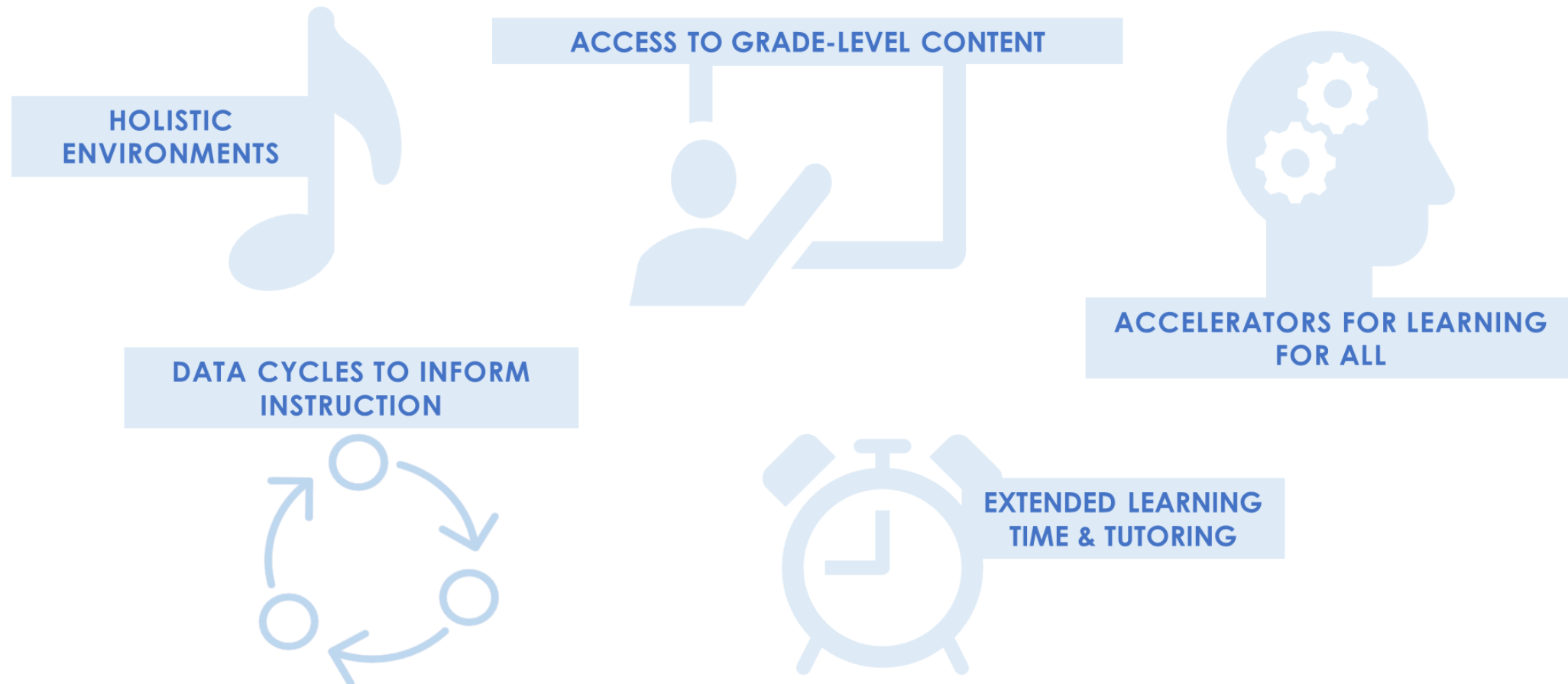
Please note, students required to quarantine at the direction of DCPS do not need to provide documentation. **Beginning January 18,** Pre-K students who have not completed testing will not be permitted entry and their absence will be excused for up to 10 calendar days, but if a student is absent for five (5) or more consecutive days, further official documentation is required, besides a parent note.

Staying Informed on COVID-19 Cases

✓ Community notices sent to school communities will include a total number of COVID-19 cases reported to the school each day.

✓ You can view each day's totals at dcpsreopenstrong.com/updates.

✓ This information is based on cases initially reported to schools prior to 11:00 a.m. that day.

✓ Community notices will be sent Sunday through Friday, except for school holidays.

✓ Final verified case counts will continue to be available at coronavirus.dc.gov/page/dc-schools-data.

Our Focus on Academics and Acceleration

HOLISTIC ENVIRONMENTS

ACCESS TO GRADE-LEVEL CONTENT

ACCELERATORS FOR LEARNING FOR ALL

DATA CYCLES TO INFORM INSTRUCTION

EXTENDED LEARNING TIME & TUTORING

Our Focus on Academics and Acceleration

Tier 1 | Understanding and meeting the needs of all students and adults within a **grade/content level**

Example: Strategically reviewing 2nd grade vocabulary of halves and fourths at the beginning of a 3rd grade unit about fractions.

Tier 2 | Deeper understanding of a **subset** of students, designing aligned supports, and reflecting on impact

Example: Providing some students with an additional small group to practice newly introduced skills during the math block.

Tier 3 | Deeper understanding of **individual** students, designing aligned supports, and reflecting on impact

Example: Providing 1:1 tutoring to students to support them in grade-level math content.

COVID-19 Centers are Up and Running

At the District's COVID Centers, **individuals will have access to vaccinations, boosters, and take-home rapid antigen tests as well as a new walk-up testing opportunity** which will allow residents to administer and register a PCR test themselves.

- ✓ Ward 1, 800 Euclid Street, NW, from 9 am to 7 pm
- ✓ Ward 2, 926 F Street, NW, from 9 am to 7 pm
- ✓ Ward 3, 5335 Wisconsin Avenue, NW, from 9 am to 7 pm
- ✓ Ward 4, 4704 13th Street, NW, from 9 am to 7 pm
- ✓ Ward 5, 2350 Washington Place, NE, Ste 105-N, from 9 am to 7 pm
- ✓ Ward 6, 507 8th Street, SE, from 9 am to 7 pm
- ✓ Ward 7, 3929 Minnesota Avenue, NE, from 9 am to 7 pm
- ✓ Ward 8, 3640 Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue, SE, from 9 am to 7 pm