

DCPS STRATEGIC PLAN

Virtual Listening Session Summary

Virtual Session Overview:

On Saturday, October 24, 2022, DCPS leadership engaged with listening session student participants through the Zoom virtual platform. As part of the event's agenda, attendees engaged by listening to an opening presentation led by DCPS leadership, followed by robust group breakout sessions and report-outs. During these exercises, attendees were asked to share their feedback around four main topical questions:

- What does a welcoming and affirming school community look like for all students, families, and staff?
- What can we do to ensure equitable programming and policies across all of DCPS?
- What do our students need academically, socially, and emotionally to reach their full potential?
- What resources do our staff, families, and students need to ensure all students thrive?

Summary of Feedback:

What does a welcoming and affirming school community look like for all students, families, and staff?

- Ensure balance between safety and how swiftly students can enter school after going through metal detectors
- Parents feel safe and welcome when they are able to enter school and eat breakfast before school begins
- Designated spaces to place backpacks/bags if students are running late
- School communities that know students by name, specifically teachers that are personable and recognize students outside of a classroom setting
- Safety at the forefront, swift ability to communicate with parents and families through different mediums (apps/email/text) to ensure important messages are delivered
- School leaders that are transparent
- School communities that affirm students' identities and embrace diversity among students and staff
- Access to snacks and food throughout the day
- Gender neutral bathrooms and intentional support for this student population

What can we do to ensure equitable programming and policies across all of DCPS?

- More social activities offered after school
- Emphasis on rewards and motivation methods that already work well and make it exciting for students to accomplish goals with the ability to celebrate
- Opportunities to learn different languages and access to classes
- Decrease the currently vast delta between schools around college and career planning—the number of resources at some schools is significantly more than other schools east of the river
- Ensure equity in schools—DCPS has done a good job within the realm they are able and empowered to impact, however more collaboration is needed to holistically review the system collaboratively with DC council

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What do our students need academically, socially, and emotionally to reach their full potential?

- Technology programs
- Opportunities to share space with peers of the same grade and other grades
- Reward systems are great incentives
- A review of currently restricted and banned websites that students have access to on their devices
- More robust mental healthcare for students with modest means
- Vaccination clinics at schools—no one should be kicked out of school because of a lack in vaccinations

What resources do our staff, families, and students need to ensure all students thrive?

- Playing more education games in class
- Spelling bees or math competitions
- Redefining the learning process to intrigue more students
- More creative opportunities
- Better lunch options
- Hold space to ask students directly about why conflict exists and why it escalates to physical fighting
- More mental health resources and counselors
- An equitable review of current religious observance days and adding as designated as holidays to school year calendar
- Accessibility to readily available physical resources such as feminine products as well as gender neutral bathrooms
- Provide more opportunities for student activities and extracurriculars

Participation Statistics:

- Number of exit surveys completed: **0**
- Total number of attendees signed in (not including all central office/school staff assisting): **26**