



# GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR CONTINUOUS EDUCATION: AN OVERVIEW FOR FAMILIES

Providing Quality Education Across In-Person and Remote Learning Environments

We know that the 2020-21 school year will be unlike any we've experienced before. Students will likely attend school in a variety of formats – in person, remote and a mix of both. While we need to keep students and staff safe, ensuring students continue to learn and grow is more critical than ever.

**Public schools in the District of Columbia have plans to provide continuous education to all students – creating a learning experience that is safe, values the whole student, and is grounded in rigorous academic standards that prepare students for success in school and life.**

As DC's state education agency, the Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE) is setting expectations for a quality experience across in-person and remote environments with the Guiding Principles for Continuous Education.

## WHAT ARE THE GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR CONTINUOUS EDUCATION?

OSSE has created a set of guidelines for schools and the education sector collectively to make clear for educators, school leaders and families what schools are striving for during this time of transition. Because students will likely learn while in both remote and in-person settings this year, it's vital that their education is high quality and consistent across all learning environments.

## HOW WILL MY CHILD'S SCHOOL USE THESE PRINCIPLES?

Local education agencies ("LEAs", such as DC Public Schools or charter organizations) will use the Guiding Principles to create plans for the upcoming 2020-21 school year that detail how they will provide a continuous, high-quality education for every student. These plans will take into account feedback from families. DC Public Schools (DCPS) and public charter organizations will submit their plans to OSSE for review and are responsible for sharing them directly with families. DC Public Charter School Board (PCSB) will also review the plans for all charter organizations.

## HOW I CAN USE THIS INFORMATION?

Use the Guiding Principles to learn more about what you can expect schools to be doing to create a continuous, high-quality education for all students and especially those with unique needs. You can use them to understand the expectations for schools and LEAs to communicate and partner with families about the upcoming year. You can also use the Guiding Principles to review and give feedback on the plans your school shares with you.

Read a summary of the key points in the Guiding Principles on the next page. You can also read the full Guiding Principles document shared with schools by going to the OSSE website [here](#).

# GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR CONTINUOUS EDUCATION: A SUMMARY



## HIGH EXPECTATIONS

Schools uphold rigorous academic standards and expectations for all students, regularly assess student progress, and provide additional supports as needed.

- Schools have a clear and consistent plan for delivering high-quality instruction to students no matter the format – in person, remote, or a blend.
- Schools check on student learning at the beginning of the year to determine student learning levels and communicate the results with families.
- Teachers give regular, consistent feedback on student work and academic progress in a manner consistent across all learning environments.
- Schools have at least one daily touchpoint with each student.



## EQUITY AND ACCESS

Schools serve the whole student and provide equitable support for students with specific learning needs. Access to technology doesn't limit student learning and engagement with school.

- Schools remain responsible for serving the whole student, including providing meals as well as social, emotional, and mental health supports.
- Schools meet the unique needs of diverse learners, including communicating with the families of students with disabilities and English learners within the first two weeks of the school year about how they will meet student needs and comply with federal and DC law.
- Schools ensure families and students have access to all technology needed to participate fully in learning.



## FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

Parents and families are critical partners in the education of their students and the school community.

- Schools invite early input from families on planning for the school year and proactively share the final plan with families; they continue asking families for feedback throughout the year.
- Schools regularly share information about student progress and the interventions and supports available.
- Schools develop a communications plan to keep families informed and regularly invite input.
- Schools offer trainings and support to help families engage in their students' learning.
- As much as possible, schools communicate with families in a language and manner they can understand.

Read more about the Guiding Principles for Continuous Education [here](#).