

## Spotlight On: Ebony J. McCullough

Harriet Tubman Elementary School | Early Childhood Education | 19 Years in Education



*Ebony describes her teaching style as structured, interactive, and supportive.*

**“As a product of DCPS, my goal is to give back to the community that has made me who I am today.”**

### **What inspired you to pursue a career as a teacher?**

I watched my grandmother, Mrs. Winifred Jackson, a retired DCPS teacher, educate and inspire so many people throughout her career. Her passion for education left a lasting impression on me and so many others. She played a critical role in providing love, support, and education to my now high school son, Kameron, when he was young, allowing me to work. I watched her teach him the alphabet, basic math, and reading.

Another inspiration for me is Mrs. Arnita Meekins. I worked in her special education self-contained class as an educational aide for many years. She is one of the best teachers DCPS could have ever had! She is passionate about special education and cultivating young minds, no matter the disability. Through her guidance and motivation, she has pushed and encouraged me to pursue higher education and my true calling. I am forever grateful to both of them.

## What is your favorite thing about teaching?

One of the most rewarding aspects of teaching is witnessing the moment when a student truly understands a concept—often referred to as the "aha" moment. It's incredibly fulfilling to see their eyes light up with comprehension and excitement. Additionally, building meaningful relationships with students and watching them grow academically and personally over time is a unique and gratifying experience. The opportunity to make a positive impact on their lives is something many teachers cherish. I believe my true calling is teaching reading. One of the most rewarding aspects of teaching reading is witnessing the joy and confidence that students gain as they become proficient readers. It's amazing to see them unlock the world of stories, information, and imagination that reading provides. Fostering a love for reading can have a lasting impact on students' academic success and personal growth. Helping students discover books that resonate with them and watching their excitement as they dive into new adventures is incredibly fulfilling.

**“This is more than a job. Becoming a teacher means making a difference in the lives of children and shaping them into the adults they'll become with lessons that will last a lifetime.”**

## How has the OSSE Apprenticeship in Teaching program impacted you?

This apprenticeship has impacted me in such a positive way. I am so grateful to Sean and Abigail for the work they are doing for our cohort. This program is allowing me to attain things at one point I thought were not attainable. This program has given me the opportunity to advance in my career as a teacher by obtaining my degree and license in early childhood education. This program has allowed me to connect with other educators and expand my professional network, offering support and collaboration opportunities. I am gaining hands-on experience and receiving excellent grades in my courses. This program has given me the confidence to continue pressing forward to the ultimate goal!

## What do you wish more people knew about teachers in the District?

Teachers in the District are incredibly dedicated to their students' success, often going above and beyond their regular duties to provide support and resources. They face unique challenges, including diverse student needs and varying levels of resources, yet they remain committed to providing quality education. DCPS teachers are highly trained and continuously seek professional development opportunities to improve their teaching practices. Their influence extends beyond academics; they play a crucial role in students' social and emotional development. Many teachers actively engage with the community, building strong relationships with families and local organizations to support their students.

**What would you say to someone who is thinking of applying for the OSSE Apprenticeship in Teaching program?**

Do it! This program is the best—hands down! Forever blessed and grateful to be a part of the inaugural cohort. The support and dedication are unmatched.

*To apply to the 2025 OSSE Apprenticeship in Teaching program cohort, please visit [Office of the State Superintendent of Education \(OSSE\) Apprenticeship in Teaching Program 2025 Application](#).*