



BUILDING A PARENT-DRIVEN SCHOOL REPORT CARD FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

PROJECT UPDATE - WINTER 2018

The Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE), working in collaboration with community partners and city agencies, is building a new school report card tool as guided by the federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). The tool will empower parents and families to advocate for their children by giving them one place where they can get all the information they need about our city's schools to make critical educational decisions.

DC families and education stakeholders are helping to build the new school report card from the ground up. During Fall 2017, OSSE engaged families across the city to learn what they want to see in a school report card. That feedback is currently informing content development for the report card tool. Final content decisions will be approved by the DC State Board of Education (SBOE).

FALL 2017 ENGAGEMENT RESULTS

We consulted with DC education stakeholders to help us identify target audiences and the best ways in which to engage with a cross-section of families. Our engagement approach centered around “meeting families where they are,” forming partnerships with community based organizations (CBOs) and DC government agencies to engage families in their networks, and identifying and leveraging “champions” to assist with the engagement process and spread the word about the project.


Nearly **1,900** parents, families, and community members engaged.

More than **450** Public Charter School families participated.

More than **500** people responded to a canvassing survey developed by Parents Amplifying Voices in Education (PAVE). 

Nearly **100** students contributed their input.


More than **150** families of children with disabilities participated.

65 Parent Leaders in Education (PLE) members engaged in in-person sessions hosted by PAVE. 

More than **170** English learner families participated. 

More than **600** DC Public Schools families participated.

Who We Heard From. From October-December 2017, we engaged families in in-person feedback sessions, grassroots opportunities at EdFEST and in street interviews, and via a comprehensive online survey. Our CBO partners and community “champions” – in particular, the ESSA Task Force, a cross-sector group of city education leaders – hosted feedback sessions and were instrumental to reaching an array of families. Highlights included:

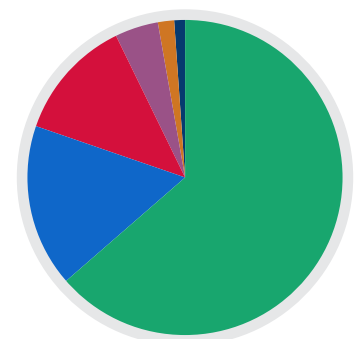
200+ parents and stakeholders engaged at EdFEST on December 9. 

260 people offered their input via the OSSE online survey.

600+ residents engaged from Wards 5, 7, and 8.

More than **750** community members participated in in-person feedback sessions.

OSSE and CBO-hosted efforts included the following approximate breakdown of participants by ethnicity:



Black **72%**
White **19%**
Hispanic/Latino **14%**
Other **5%**
American Indian **2%**
Asian/Pacific Islander **1%**

*Demographic data points capture participants who provided such information. Not all participants provided demographic information.



What We Heard. Through these touchpoints and feedback collected, we learned about the data families prioritize when they assess a school, and we heard their “blue sky” ideas for the new school report card tool.

Families we engaged prioritize certain data points about a school.



Teacher Data. Are the teachers in the school well-trained? How much experience do they have? Are they continuing their professional development?



Graduation Rates and College Readiness. Are students who attend the school ready for what comes next?



Advanced Coursework. Is the school preparing students to think critically and providing an array of course options for different learners?



Test Scores and Grades. How do the school’s scores compare to schools citywide? Nationally?

Families also want to know about the culture and amenities of a school.



Discipline and Safety. What is the school doing to keep students safe and promote a culture of accountability?



Parent and Family Engagement. Is there an active PTO? What programs and initiatives engage families at the school? Is there a dedicated staff member for family engagement?



Diversity. What is the demographic make-up of the student population? The teaching and learning staff?



Transportation. Can my child get to the school safely? How long is the commute? Is it convenient? Is there nearby public transit?

How We’re Using this Information. Community feedback informed the recommendation by the ESSA Task Force (composed of DC education stakeholders) to the DC State Board of Education. The SBOE will vote on content and data measures for the report card in February 2018.

Proposed content for the tool can be viewed online at osse.dc.gov/buildDCsreportcard. In the proposal, you can learn how feedback from Phase 1 was used, including how we are balancing the needs and preferences of parents and families with the resources available to schools and city agencies to produce the report card.

WE’RE JUST GETTING STARTED!

Engagement will continue throughout the Spring and Summer of 2018 as OSSE works with project partners to develop the technology behind the tool. Parents and families will have opportunities to provide input on:

- The design of the tool.
- The look and feel for the report card “brand.”
- The training resources and promotional tools that will be made available when the tool launches in December 2018.
- *And much more!*

Partner with Us. Our partners and “champions” are crucial to our continued success. Throughout 2018, we will offer multiple opportunities to support the launch effort, including:

- Hosting an in-person feedback session on the report card’s design with parents and stakeholders in your network.
- Completing and promoting our online survey.
- Offering feedback on the report card brand as it’s developed.
- Identifying parent ambassadors who will help us inform parents from across the city about the new tool.
- Spreading the word with your networks.
- Encouraging people to visit osse.dc.gov to learn more.

Email buildDCsreportcard.osse@dc.gov if you are interested in learning more about our partnership opportunities.

Stay tuned for more information about these opportunities as the build out for the tool and our citywide marketing efforts continue.