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

PROJECT UPDATE – SEPTEMBER 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 DC School Report Card and STAR Framework gives families a look into all public schools in the District. This tool is a step toward a more transparent, equitable DC education system, with students at the center of critical decision-making.

DC families and education stakeholders are helping to build the new school report card from the ground up. During Fall 2017, families shared with OSSE what they want to see in the new school report card tool. For more information on that effort, visit osse.dc.gov/dcschoolreportcard. During Spring and Summer 2018, OSSE engaged DC families to learn their preferences for the tool's layout and navigation, as well as terminology and definitions that will be used to describe metrics and other data available through the tool.

WHO WE HEARD FROM

From April through June 2018, OSSE and our community partners hosted **33 in-person sessions**, and offered online engagement opportunities, ultimately hearing from **2,228 parents and community members in all eight wards**. Our work was supported by a variety of the project's "champions," including community-based organizations (CBOs), which hosted engagement sessions and promoted our online surveys.

2,228 parents and community members engaged

33 in-person sessions

Residents from **all 8 wards** participated

More than **650** people engaged from Wards 5, 7, & 8

Nearly **70%** engaged are parents/guardians

22% reported that they have one or more children who receive special education services

10% reported that their preferred language is Spanish
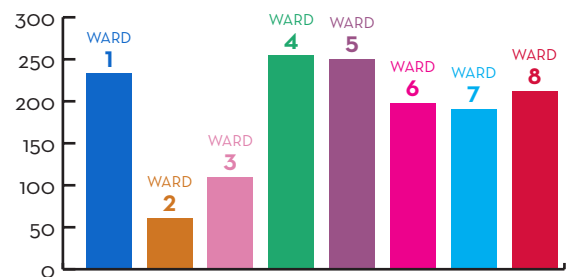
Participants By Ward

Participant Demographics
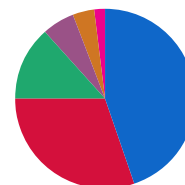
Black **47%**
White **32%**
Hispanic/Latino **14%**
Other **6%**
American Indian **4%**
Asian/Pacific Islander **2%**

LAYOUT AND NAVIGATION

We heard from most community members who provided feedback on the proposed layout and navigation of the tool (as illustrated by "mock-ups" of page elements) that the organization of the tool was easy to understand. Several themes emerged from the feedback, and OSSE made several improvements to the proposed layout and organization of the tool. These include:

- Removing STAR Ratings from the headers of each report card page to alleviate any confusion on what is included in the calculation of the STAR Rating.

- Modifying the design to more effectively use available space and cut down on white space.

- Adding explanatory text boxes and additional information bubbles, report card elements, and metrics to provide additional information that is easy to access when needed, and hidden when not needed.

- Adding available trend and comparison information to the report card tool.

- Ensuring that users are able to sort and filter schools by the five most important data points identified by parents in our engagement efforts. These five data points include: 1) School Programs, 2) Grades Served, 3) Teacher Information, 4) School Safety and Discipline, and 5) Before and After School Care.

TERMINOLOGY AND DEFINITIONS

We asked community members to provide us with feedback on two options for naming and describing most metrics in the tool and to choose their favorite options. Key themes and improvements include:

- For measures that are relatively common or familiar, most people liked the simpler, shorter version of the text. For measures that were more complex or nuanced, people asked for more detail or a way to get more information. OSSE will use the terminology and definitions preferred by the majority of those engaged.

- In some instances, participants did not like either option for how terms were defined. OSSE is developing clearer descriptions for those terms.

- Many participants also expressed a desire for rollovers, flyouts, or a glossary defining metrics and terms. Ensuring terminology and definitions are easily accessible within the tool is a key priority for OSSE as we continue building out the tool.

- Participants asked for graphics or visuals to accompany the language, especially for metrics that involved a lot of calculations. Data visualization is also a key priority for OSSE in building out the tool, and in cases where it makes sense to visually represent data, OSSE will do so.

WHAT'S NEXT?

During Fall 2018, OSSE will continue to raise awareness around the tool, which is scheduled to launch in December 2018. We will also begin training DC education stakeholders and parent leaders around how to use the tool.

Visit **osse.dc.gov/dcschoolreportcard** to learn more about recent engagement efforts and to find out how you can be involved as we prepare to launch the school report card tool in December.

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WE ARE WORKING GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
DC MURIEL BOWSER, MAYOR

OSSE