



Office of the State
Superintendent of Education

The background of the cover is a photograph of a school hallway. A woman in a black blazer and gold heels is shaking hands with a young boy in a blue hoodie and khaki pants. Both are wearing face masks. The hallway has green lockers and a yellow and white checkered floor. A white text box is overlaid on the bottom half of the image.

2021

ANNUAL REPORT

FROM RECOVERY
TO RESTORATION



VISION

DC will close the achievement gap and ensure people of all ages and backgrounds are prepared to succeed in school and in life.

MISSION

As DC's state education agency, OSSE works urgently and purposefully, in partnership with education and related systems, to sustain, accelerate and deepen progress for DC students.



A LETTER FROM THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION

Dear DC Community,

After more than two years of uncertainty and upheaval caused by the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, it is more apparent than ever how critical a high-quality public education system is when it comes to moving the District from recovery to restoration.

And while the environment continues to evolve and we continue to face unprecedented challenges, what doesn't change is our commitment, along with the commitment from DC educators, staff and leaders, to provide DC students and families with the education and supports needed to succeed in school and in life.

As you'll see from the Office of the State Superintendent of Education's (OSSE's) 2021 Annual Report, the adversities of 2021 also served as catalysts for innovation, meaningful collaborations and a renewed sense of urgency in ensuring equity for our students, particularly those furthest from opportunity.



Throughout the year, students, families, educators, leaders, advocates and the community at large showed tremendous resilience and flexibility, and OSSE staff, guided by our mission and strategic plan, met them in stride.

From investing and distributing a total of \$600 million in federal emergency relief funding and laying the framework for a return to in-person learning in August 2021, to making groundbreaking investments in the DC early childhood sector, OSSE staff have and will continue to play an instrumental role in the District's educational recovery efforts.

Last year brought with it great losses and many difficulties, but it also harbored moments of joy and hope and you'll see both reflected in the pages ahead.

I am proud of how OSSE staff have persevered. I am grateful for the partnership and trust we continue to share with DC's students, families, educators, school leaders and advocates. This work is most meaningful – and only possible – when we do it together.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Christina Grant".

Christina Grant, Ed.D.
State Superintendent of Education



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2021: OSSE BY THE NUMBERS

3,867 
DC STUDENTS

received more than \$29 million in college funds from OSSE's DC Tuition Assistance Grant (DCTAG).



450
PROFESSIONAL
LEARNING SESSIONS

offered by OSSE, generating an aggregate attendance of 5,000 educators.

\$600 MILLION 

in federal emergency relief funding for education.

Approximately

1 MILLION 
PIECES OF PERSONAL
PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

provided to DC child care providers.



124,000
COVID TESTS

administered through OSSE's centralized testing program from the start of the 2021-22 school year through December.



14 MILLION
MEALS PROVIDED

to DC children and families with support from OSSE.



STUDENTS WORKED

94,000 HOURS

and earned **\$884,000** combined in high-demand career fields participating in DC Career and Technical Education Career Ready Internships facilitated by OSSE and DC Public Schools.

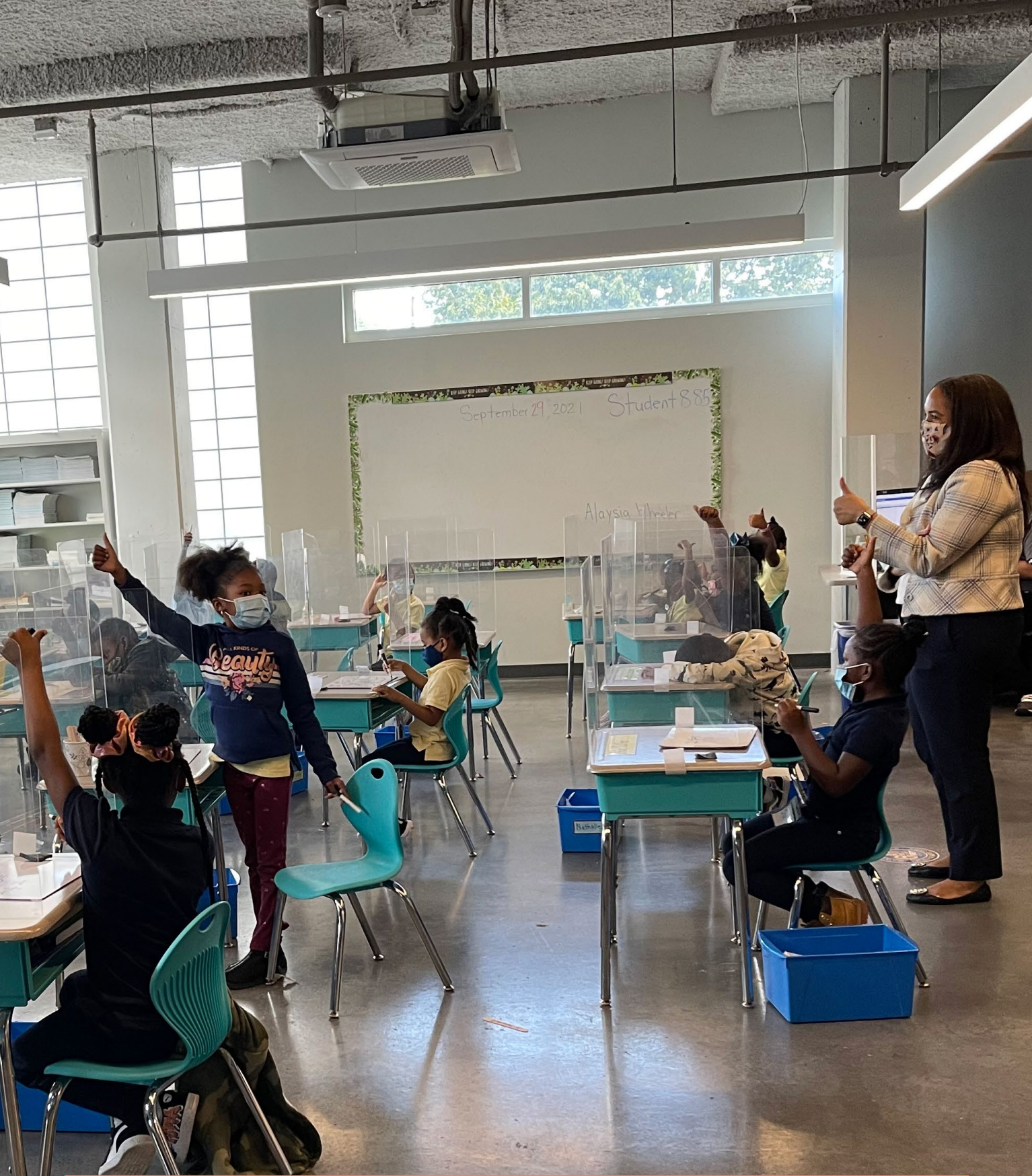


More than

\$13 MILLION

IN SUBGRANTS AWARDED

to support literacy work for DC students.

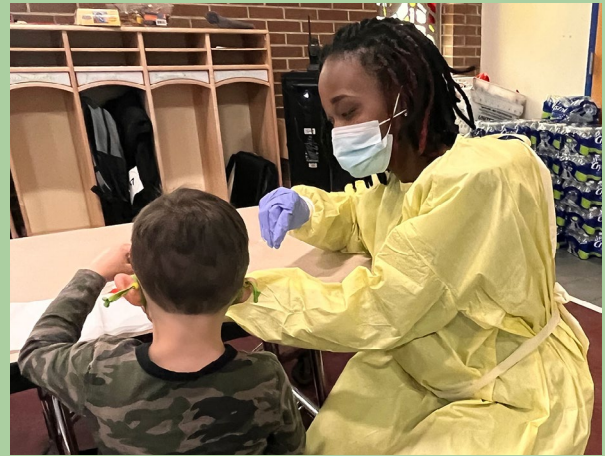


HELPING OUR COMMUNITIES RECOVER AND OUR SCHOOLS REOPEN

The pandemic brought with it many challenges for educators, students and families – but it also reinforced that the best place for children to learn is in classrooms, in person with their peers and teachers. When the District committed to reopening schools for in-person learning for the 2021-22 school year, it was a commitment to meeting the academic, social-emotional and health and safety needs of all students.

RECOVERY FUNDING

As the agency that oversees federal education programs and grants in the District, OSSE is stewarding \$600 million in federal emergency relief funding, 90 percent of which directly to LEAs and more than \$8.2 million in Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER) Funds. With these funds, OSSE and District LEAs set up critical supports and services, targeting student populations that have experienced significant disruption due to COVID-19 and helping schools prepare for a safe reopening when students and staff returned to in-person classes, five days a week last August. The funds are also being used to support ongoing student and staff well-being and accelerated learning efforts. While funded projects will continue through 2024, here's a snapshot of how OSSE used recovery funding to support DC students and educators in 2021.



Safe Reopening

Using a multi-tiered approach, OSSE provided technical assistance, programming and funding to help LEAs and schools providers prepare to reopen for in-person learning and prevent the spread of COVID-19 and respond appropriately when they experience cases or outbreaks of the virus.

Read more: Providing Health and Safety Technical Assistance and Supports for Schools ([page 6](#)), Vaccinating Education Stakeholders and Students ([page 6](#)), Implementing Robust COVID-19 Testing and Contact Tracing ([page 6](#)) and Guiding Principles, Continuous Education Plans and Health and Safety Plans ([page 8](#)).



Student and Staff Wellbeing

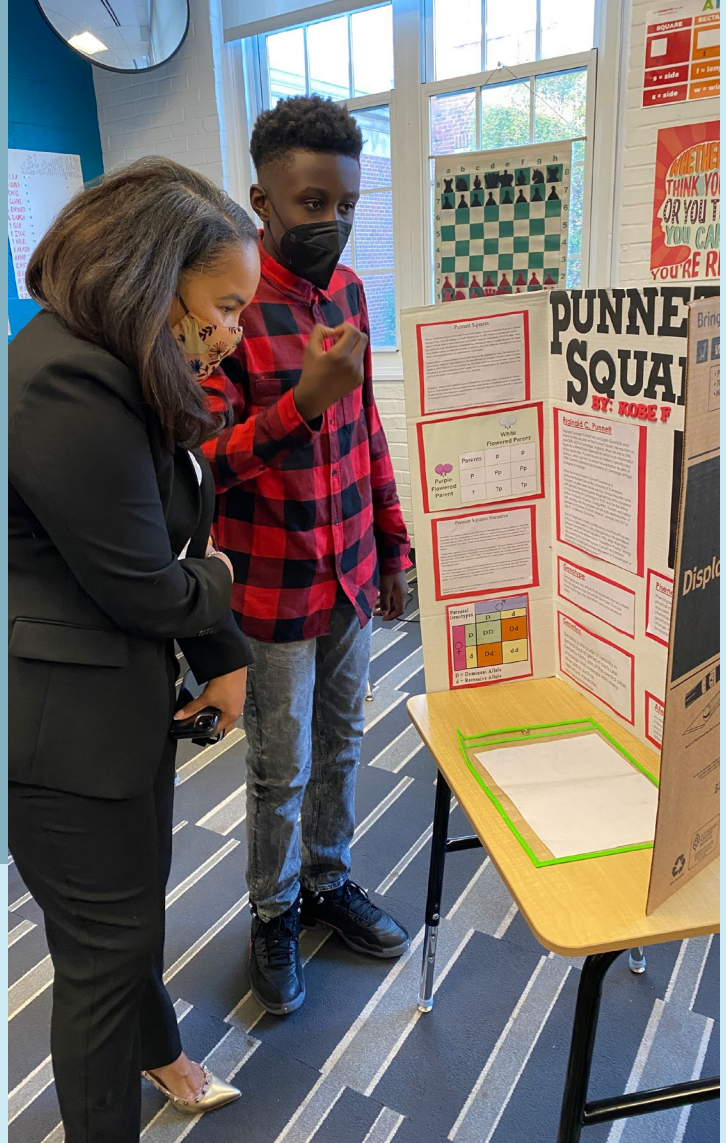
To support schools with implementing multi-tiered mental/behavioral health and educator wellness programs, OSSE offered guidance, training and actionable resources.

Read more: Supporting Student and Educator Mental Health ([page 12](#)).

Accelerating Learning

OSSE focused on educating all students throughout recovery by designing and launching a coordinated District-wide approach to high-impact tutoring to support targeted student populations to overcome the effects of interrupted instruction.

Read more: Investing in High-Impact Tutoring (HIT) ([page 7](#)) and Providing DC Educators with Meaningful Professional Learning ([page 10](#)).



Strengthening and Stabilizing the Early Childhood Sector

OSSE supported the early childhood sector throughout 2021 while aligning priorities, practices and resources to strengthen the sector through pandemic recovery and into restoration.

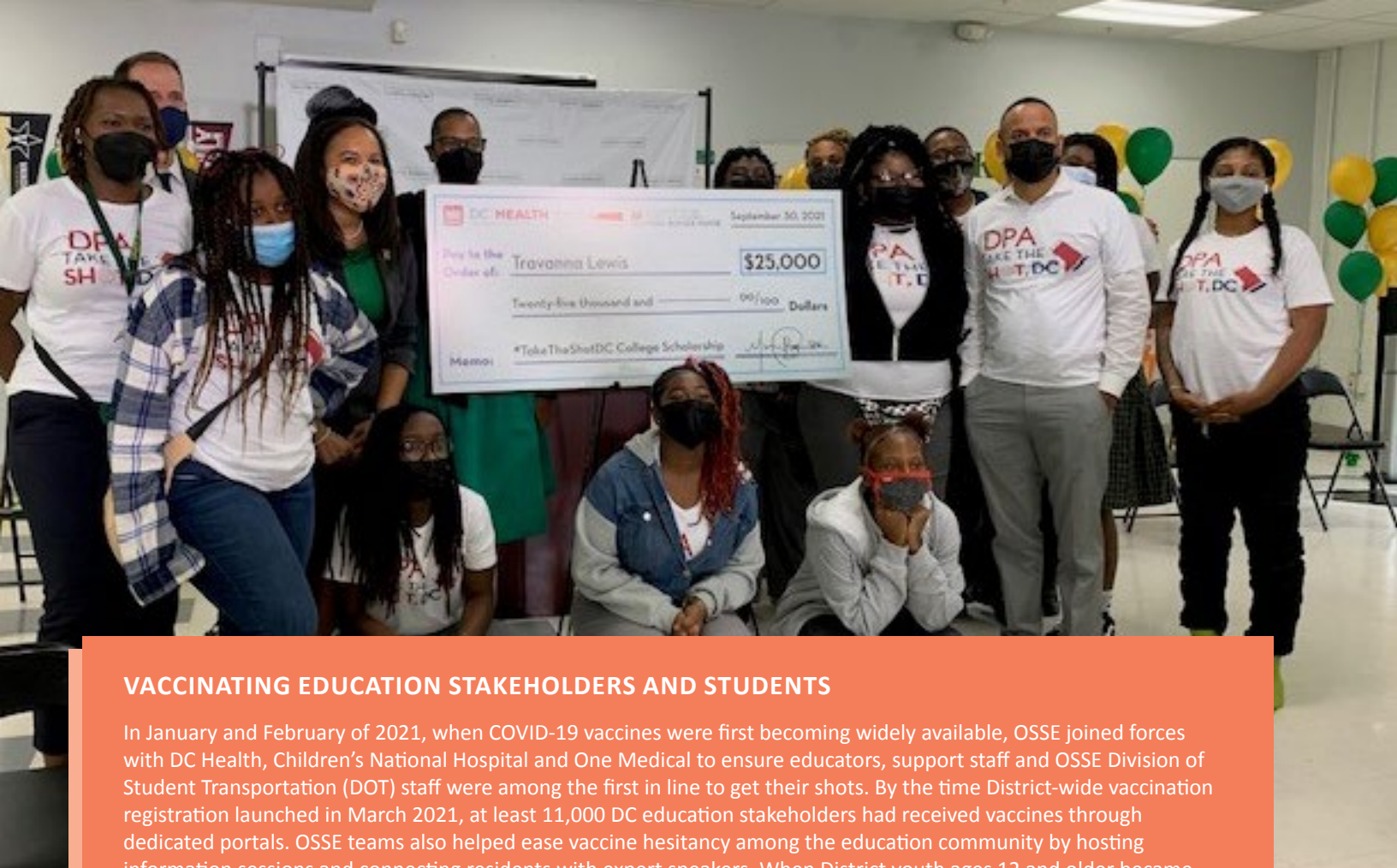
Read more: Investing In DC's Early Childhood System ([page 7](#)) and Recognizing Excellence in Service ([page 8](#)).



Reimagining Pathways for Postsecondary Success

In 2021, OSSE worked to improve the quality of career education and training across all levels, increased access to postsecondary enrollment opportunities and expanded dual enrollment for high school students.

Read more: Paving the Way to Postsecondary Education and Careers for More DC Students ([page 10](#)).



VACCINATING EDUCATION STAKEHOLDERS AND STUDENTS

In January and February of 2021, when COVID-19 vaccines were first becoming widely available, OSSE joined forces with DC Health, Children's National Hospital and One Medical to ensure educators, support staff and OSSE Division of Student Transportation (DOT) staff were among the first in line to get their shots. By the time District-wide vaccination registration launched in March 2021, at least 11,000 DC education stakeholders had received vaccines through dedicated portals. OSSE teams also helped ease vaccine hesitancy among the education community by hosting information sessions and connecting residents with expert speakers. When District youth ages 12 and older became eligible for the vaccine, OSSE stepped up efforts to galvanize participation among school communities, supporting the Youth COVID-19 Vaccine Raffle. The program awarded iPads and \$25,000 scholarships to DC students who did their part to protect themselves along with their classmates, teachers and families.

PROVIDING HEALTH AND SAFETY TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND SUPPORTS FOR SCHOOLS

OSSE has provided local education agencies (LEAs), schools and families with much-needed supports and critical information from the onset of the pandemic. Over the course of 2021, OSSE delivered 22 technical assistance calls and 12 monthly LEA leader meetings to ensure school leaders and educators had the tools they needed to implement the critical health and safety guidance from DC Health. OSSE also provided supports to help LEAs communicate key policies and practices to families via resources in as many as nine languages. OSSE also connected LEAs with local and national experts, including the Rockefeller Foundation, the US Department of Education (USED) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), to help them stand up and strengthen COVID-19 protocols inside schools.

IMPLEMENTING ROBUST COVID-19 TESTING AND CONTACT TRACING

Safely reopening schools and ensuring that students could remain in person required a comprehensive COVID-19 testing and contact tracing strategy. Before students, educators and staff reentered classrooms for the 2021-22 school year, OSSE worked to establish a centralized, school-based COVID-19 testing program at DC Public Schools and participating public charter schools. The ongoing centralized program, which included 34 LEAs, administered more than 124,000 tests from the start of the 2021-22 school year through December. Another 32 LEAs received funds from OSSE to operate a new or existing COVID-19 testing program. Charter LEAs also had access to centralized contact identification support from a vendor and up to two \$2,000 stipends for charter staff per school. OSSE also provided a slew of supports to complement the program and funding, including weekly office hours and technical assistance calls and Communities of Practice for charter LEAs.

INVESTING IN DC'S EARLY CHILDHOOD SYSTEM

Throughout the pandemic, the District's early childhood education providers have offered safe, nurturing environments for the District's youngest learners while also ensuring working families have the support they need to succeed. OSSE's Division of Early Learning (DEL) ramped up supports for both providers and families to further sustain those critical efforts.

With continued support from Mayor Bowser and through federal relief, the District's child care sector received millions in financial support in 2021. In March, Mayor Bowser announced the District would allocate \$10.7 million for a new grant program to deliver financial relief to licensed child care facilities and create a \$3 million fund for targeted assistance to providers affected by the public health emergency. In addition, the previously announced DC Road to Recovery Fund was expanded from \$2.8 million to \$5.8 million, enabling that program to fund grants to all eligible applicants. Combined with the \$5 million in DC Child Care Relief Fund grants made to 90 percent of child care providers in the fall of 2020, these programs resulted in more than \$24 million in direct financial assistance to District child care providers during the public health emergency.

Also in 2021, OSSE started the process to distribute more than \$38 million in additional relief funds in fiscal year 2022 (FY22). DEL ensured timely, accurate monthly child care subsidy payments to participating providers—nearly 55 percent of the District's child care facilities—distributing more than \$8 million each month. Subsidy providers also received the Public Health Emergency subsidy rate through September 2021, increasing payments in recognition of the increased costs of delivering child care during the pandemic.

Understanding that financial supports needed to be paired with comprehensive technical assistance and supports, DEL engaged early childhood stakeholders throughout 2021, holding 25 meetings to share information on health and safety, vaccines, subsidy policies, licensing, COVID-19 relief funds and quality initiatives.

As a result of these combined efforts, the number of slots at licensed child development facilities in the District increased during the pandemic, from 26,976 slots in February 2020, to 27,603 slots by the end of 2021.



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ENSURING FOOD ACCESS AND MEALS FOR STUDENTS

Providing children in the District with access to healthy, nutritious meals does much more than fill bellies – it gives children facing food insecurity a fair shot at succeeding in school and beyond. From the onset of the pandemic and throughout 2021, OSSE's Division of Health and Wellness (H&W) supported communities in meeting the nutritional needs of children. In 2021 alone, H&W assisted sponsors and schools in serving approximately 14 million meals to DC children and families with a variety of flexibilities; assisted in providing \$159 million in Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT) benefits to 92,337 students to date; utilized 31 COVID-19-specific USDA waivers; and provided 90 hours of training.

INVESTING IN HIGH-IMPACT TUTORING (HIT)

Many students, especially those who are at-risk, experienced disrupted instruction during the pandemic. Many of these students were already behind their peers

OSSE will invest
\$41 MILLION
over the next
three years.

academically, and initial findings indicate they have fallen even further behind over the last year. OSSE acted swiftly to address the gaps left by interrupted learning and took a number of actions in 2021 to establish HIT infrastructure in the District. Part of that work included awarding \$3.2 million through the Office of Out of School Time Grants and Youth Outcomes (OST) to community-based organizations that are providing HIT in District schools and at sites across the community. The pilot grant will fund tutoring for 1,665 DC students in the 2021-22 school year. OSSE also developed and promoted HIT standards and launched access to a high-quality K-8 online math program for use by 40 schools to help accelerate student learning over the summer and during the school year. OSSE also committed to investing \$41 million over the next three years to help scale access to [high-quality HIT](#) across the District and build ecosystem capacity. These supports are all in addition to LEA investments.

OSSE'S STRATEGIC PILLARS

Despite the challenges presented by the pandemic, OSSE has continued to lead by maintaining a steadfast focus on our strategic pillars. These pillars continue to serve as the foundation for our strategic plan and our work as an agency as well as our roadmap as we – together with our students, educators, families and other stakeholders – navigate the challenges of the ongoing pandemic. Reflecting on the work we did in 2021 through the lens of these pillars provides an opportunity to reflect on the progress we've made in increasing access to quality early childhood education, closing achievement gaps in elementary and secondary education and helping more students get on the path to higher education.



SET HIGH EXPECTATIONS

Guiding Principles for Continuous Education and Supporting Plans

To help District LEAs meet the challenge of preparing for a return to in-person learning for the 2021-22 school year, OSSE updated and realigned the existing Guiding Principles to three recovery priorities for 2021: Safe Reopening, Student and Staff Well-Being and Accelerated Learning. These guiding principles gave LEAs and families clear and consistent expectations for serving students in person five days a week and offering distance learning under limited circumstances. LEAs developed effective, equitable continuous education plans (CEPs) to support all students using [these guiding principles](#). LEAs also developed comprehensive health and safety plans to support the safe reopening and operation of buildings. To support plan creation and implementation, OSSE provided LEAs with 14 different training sessions and partnered with TNTP, a national nonprofit founded by teachers that helps school systems address educational inequality, to offer consultative services. Once LEAs submitted their plans in June 2021, OSSE teams got to work – completing a comprehensive review of 70 CEPs and 101 health and safety plans. If gaps were discovered or if plans lacked clarity, OSSE worked directly with LEAs to ensure all LEAs had clear, actionable and compliant plans in place before the start of the school year.

Recognizing Excellence in Service

In 2021, DEL licensing specialists provided approximately 1 million pieces of personal protective equipment to child care providers.

In May, DEL's Licensing and Compliance Team was honored with the Excellence in Service Award during Mayor Bowser's Employee Appreciation Ceremony. The team remained determined and focused on serving children and families throughout the pandemic, working closely with DC's early care and education community throughout the pandemic and adapting its own processes and procedures to ensure the District's nearly 500 child care providers could continue to serve families safely. Throughout the year, DEL licensing specialists conducted 818 licensing inspections virtually and in-person and provided approximately 1 million pieces of personal protective equipment to providers.

Driving Toward Restoration

From the onset of the pandemic, OSSE DOT has continued to provide a high level of service to DC students, families and partner agencies equipped with more than 144 new buses in its fleet, OSSE DOT helped ensure students with disabilities were able to begin the 2021-22 school year safely. After ridership dipped to an average of 142 students a month during the first five months of the 2020-21 school year—when most students were participating in distance learning—average monthly ridership rebounded to 3,354 students during the same period in 2021. OSSE DOT also delivered ongoing support to partner agencies throughout the year, providing critical services during the health emergency, including volunteering to support vaccinations for educators and staff, and providing resources to assist with leaf removal and the District's cold weather initiative.



SHARE AND USE ACTIONABLE DATA

Launching an Updated DC School Report Card



For five years the DC School Report Card has served families with a common set of facts to better understand how schools serve students. Before launching in 2018, OSSE spent years seeking and incorporating community feedback into the development of the family-friendly site and that feedback continued to play an important role when OSSE updated the site in 2021. OSSE's Division of Data, Assessment and Research (DAR) and the Office of the Chief Information Officer (CIO) joined forces to develop a new site to fulfill the community's needs. The updated site, launched in December 2021, looks familiar to those who engaged with the previous site and includes exciting new features that reflect stakeholder feedback.



Providing Comprehensive and Accessible DC Educator Data

Collecting and sharing meaningful educator data helps build a common understanding of educator mobility in DC, while also supporting efforts to retain the District's most effective teachers and principals. Acting on feedback and public engagement that began during the development of the DC School Report Card several years ago, OSSE has continued to expand collection and access to high-quality, comparable educator data. Launched in the fall of 2021, the DC Educator Talent and Equity Dashboard provides every LEA in DC access to an interactive dashboard with insights on teacher demand, teacher retention, teacher equity and comprehensive workforce data. LEAs may also use these data to develop strategic staffing policies and practices to attract and retain the teachers they need. In addition, we continued to expand the data that we collect and report publicly, including a new teacher retention data one-pager and new teacher demographic data on the DC School Report Card.



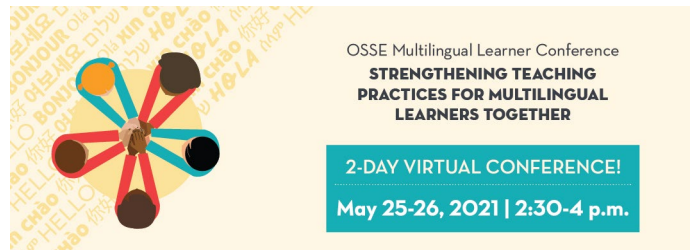
Paving the Way to Postsecondary Education and Careers for More DC Students

OSSE’s Division of Postsecondary and Career Education (PCE) continued to find new, innovative ways to ease educational transitions for high school and postsecondary students in 2021. In October, PCE launched the DC Futures pilot – a new scholarship program created by a \$12 million investment from Mayor Bowser. DC Futures provides eligible students pursuing their first associate or bachelor’s degree in a high-demand major at select DC institutions with up to \$8,000 yearly toward tuition and fees, college coaching to help navigate the college journey, and a monthly stipend to help meet other financial needs. More than 300 residents applied for the pilot program in 2021, and OSSE has committed funds to support up to 1,000 students in 2022.

OSSE’s DC Office of Career and Technical Education (DC CTE) assists secondary and postsecondary institutions in aligning programming to workforce opportunities to improve graduation rates and prepare DC public and public charter high school students for success in high-wage, high-demand careers. Additionally, OSSE’s office of Industry Engagement (IE) offers CTE students access to high-quality work-based learning opportunities that connect their classroom instruction to practical work-place experiences. In 2021, through a partnership between OSSE and DCPS, students participating in the DC Career Ready Internships worked 94,000 hours and earned \$884,000 combined in in-demand career fields such as engineering, information technology and health science. All the responding host employers said they’d be interested in returning to the program in the future, and 97 percent of responding host employers said that they would consider hiring a Career Ready Intern for another internship or future employment at the company.

Providing DC Educators with Meaningful Professional Learning

The professional learning needs of DC’s educators – and how best to deliver those opportunities – change over time and in response to what’s happening in the world. The work of OSSE’s Division of Teaching and Learning (TAL) regularly delivers a portfolio of diverse, engaging professional learning opportunities to teachers, school staff and school leaders from across the city. In 2021, the TAL Professional Learning (PL) team hosted 450 professional learning sessions with an aggregate attendance of 5,000 educators. Led by state and national experts, across a wide range of topics, professional learning sessions offered in 2021 focused on topics like improving outcomes for special populations, coaching strategies for instructional leadership and school culture and climate topics such as behavioral support, social-emotional learning, restorative practices, trauma-informed practices and equity. The TAL team prioritized learning acceleration strategies for implementation across virtual, hybrid and in-person classrooms and school environments to support school leaders and educators in their critical role in mitigating interrupted learning due to pandemic-related interrupted instruction. Even after providing high-quality sessions virtually for more than a year, TAL continued to find new, innovative ways to engage educators by consistently incorporating the latest best-practice tools, engagement and presentation techniques into each session.



Rethinking the Multilingual Learner Conference

After cancelling the second annual Multilingual Learner Conference (MLC) in 2020, the OSSE TAL Multilingual Learner team hosted a very successful MLC 2.0 in May 2021 - drawing nearly 300 attendees to the two-day virtual event. To further OSSE’s vision for success for English learners, presenters highlighted the innovative and creative techniques educators used to meet the academic and social-emotional needs of English learners, and all students, during the 2020-21 school year. DC educators delivered seven breakout sessions and shared strategies to support English learners and multilingual learners in English-based classrooms and dual-language programs.

Beyond the breakout sessions, attendees took advantage of the event’s many other engaging features, including community discussion boards, poll questions and Q&A sessions with presenters.



MAXIMIZE OSSE'S IMPACT

Strengthening Academic Outcomes for Students with Disabilities

OSSE made great strides implementing year two of our [Roadmap for Accelerating Outcomes for Students with Disabilities](#). Developed with partners and colleagues across the education space and released in October 2020, the roadmap outlines the strategic direction and priorities for accelerating academic progress for students with disabilities across the District. As part of our focus on strengthening educator staff and leader capacity, OSSE launched the agency's first micro-credential, Special Education Foundations, to train educators in skills essential to serving students with disabilities. Seventy-five educators and leaders piloted the micro-credential in fall 2021, and OSSE is standing up additional micro-credentials in the coming year. OSSE realized a major goal in the area of promoting appropriate identification and placement when the Strong Start team fully implemented the primary service provider (PSP) and teaming approach – a recognized best practice for providing early intervention services to children with a developmental delay or disability, to improve coordination and support for children and families (read more in our next story). Continuing our commitment to expanding access to actionable information and data, OSSE ensured the Special Education Resource Hub was updated with critical information before the start of the 2021-22 school year. The hub, which launched in 2020, provides students and families with answers to common questions around what to expect during the school year and information on how parents and family members can best support their students. Translated into multiple languages, the resource hub includes family-friendly responses to foundational questions on special education evaluation, service delivery, post-secondary transition and more.

Enhancing Early Intervention Services for DC Families

OSSE's Strong Start team, which provides free provides early intervention therapies and services for infants and toddlers with disabilities and developmental delays and their families, delivered services, both virtually and in-person, to more than 2,260 District families in 2021.

The team also continued to find new, innovative ways increase awareness of the program and enhance services to children and families.

As part of OSSE's long-running goal to expand Strong Start presence and visibility in wards 7 and 8, early intervention staff started working from a new Ward 7 location in July. The new Penn Branch facility will also serve as the venue for evaluations, family services and community events when the public health situation permits.

In September, after many months of preparation, the Strong Start team fully implemented the primary service provider approach (PSP), which matches families with a lead early interventionist who serves as the primary provider on a child's team of interventionists across disciplines. Working with a PSP helps families address their child's specific developmental needs and gain new skills and confidence so they can better support their child's growth and development. In addition to providing services, the PSP collaborates with the other team members to best use the group's collective skills, experience and expertise to address new opportunities and challenges in a child's development.

Also in September, Strong Start launched a new online referral system, making it easier for families and community stakeholders to make referrals.

MAXIMIZE OSSE'S IMPACT

Supporting Student and Educator Mental Health

The need for comprehensive mental health supports and interventions in schools – for both students and educators – has grown tremendously in the past two years. It has been well documented that the COVID-19 pandemic has had a negative impact on the mental and emotional well-being of youth, with increased reports of high anxiety, grief and concern about academic success. Understanding this need, OSSE continued to build on its existing portfolio of mental health work in schools to support student and educator wellbeing and to address the trauma and uncertainty caused by the pandemic. In September, OSSE released a new, two-year grant program to build the capacity of DC public and public charter schools to understand and address the root causes of educator stress through educator wellness programs. In addition to offering an extensive catalog of trauma-informed and mental health professional learning sessions for educators and behavioral health professionals, OSSE hosted suicide prevention training sessions and subsequent technical assistance office hours for all DC public and public charter schools, trained more than 250 K-12 clinicians and supplied 101 schools with suicide prevention and intervention curriculum.

To further build capacity across the District for the development and maintenance of safe and supportive school environments, OSSE committed ESSER funds in 2021 to support the expansion of the Comprehensive School Based Behavioral Health System with a goal to increase access to clinical services in public schools across the District and ensure schools are fully staffed with behavioral health providers.

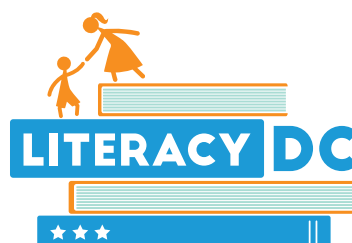


Improving Student Literacy Across the District

After the District received a \$16 million Comprehensive Literacy State Development (CLSD) grant in 2020, OSSE continued to build on that momentum in 2021, awarding more than \$13 million in subgrants to support literacy work for DC students. These funds will help support early language and literacy skills, increase the number of children reading on grade level in grade 3 through high school and improve literacy outcomes for nearly 8,800 disadvantaged and traditionally underserved children. OSSE will leverage its share of the CLSD funds to strengthen the educator workforce pipeline, develop a statewide literacy coaching program and enhance licensure requirements to increase all educators' preparedness for literacy instruction.

In October, OSSE released the [District of Columbia Statewide Comprehensive Literacy Plan \(CLP\)](#) – a robust framework grounded in the science of reading and evidence-based practices. The plan also incorporates substantial engagement from educators and families. The CLP reflects the District's commitment to and belief that all children, regardless of background, must become successful readers to thrive in life.

The CLP envisions all learners from birth through grade 12 having access to high-quality literacy instruction. The Guiding Principles for Literacy are included in the plan to advise the implementation of inclusive instruction, assessment, multi-tiered supports and professional learning.



ReEngaging DC Youth

Members of the OSSE DC ReEngagement Center (DC REC) dug in to the program's vision of closing achievement gaps and re-engaging youth in the District. In addition to launching street canvassing and District-wide advertising campaigns to reach more students and families across the District, the team also participated in the 2021 Marion Barry Summer Youth Employment Program (MBSYEP) by facilitating a six-week hybrid schedule summer experience for DC REC scholars. During the program, DC REC scholars were exposed to career counseling, educational and career exposure and workforce development. The DC REC's MBSYEP scholars connected with community-based organizations and agency partners virtually and also participated in 2021 Beat the Streets Outreach events. The program connected scholars with American Job Center caseworkers who assisted with taking the skills and knowledge learned during the summer to prepare to enter the workforce.



Meeting Students and Families Where They Are

Engaging with students and families during annual events remained a priority for OSSE in 2021. For the second year, My School DC hosted its annual EdFEST event virtually in December 2021, allowing District families to attend the event from anywhere. Close to 3,500 students and families from all eight wards registered for the free, annual public school fair, where they thoughtfully engaged with educators and school leaders from the city's many pre-K 3 through grade 12 public school options. Representatives from 200 schools interacted directly with families - answering questions via video or chat and providing important information about the My School DC public school lottery, which opened the week after the event. Year after year, in person or virtually, EdFEST provides families with the information they need to make the best possible choices for their students. Like EdFest, OSSE's annual Adult College Completion Fair went virtual in 2021. Since 2015, the Adult College Completion Fair, hosted by PCE, has given adult learners a free opportunity to learn about the many resources and supports available to help them complete their college education. In April, about 100 participants engaged with experts and vendors, explored college and career interests, discovered adult-friendly postsecondary options, and learned ways to pay for their education.

VIRTUAL
MY SCHOOL DC
EdFEST 2021
MySchoolDC.org

Click to register for **FREE**

DC'S PUBLIC SCHOOL FAIR
- online!

Confirming DC's New STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION

As the city worked its way through pandemic recovery efforts and planned for a return to in-person learning for the 2021-22 school year, Mayor Bowser appointed Dr. Christina Grant as Acting State Superintendent in June. While serving as Acting State Superintendent, Dr. Grant oversaw the planning and implementation for a safe return to school and the rollout of a centralized, school-based COVID-19 testing program for all DCPS schools and participating public charter schools; she presented the District's first \$25,000 college scholarship in the Take the Shot, DC Youth Vaccine Giveaway; helped kick off the 67th Annual DC One Fund Campaign; and so much more. The Council of the District of Columbia voted to confirm Dr. Grant as State Superintendent in December, and under the leadership of Mayor Bowser, State Superintendent Grant has made it her mission to restore and reinvigorate the DC's public education system, building on the progress the District has made over the years and tackling challenges as the District recovers from the pandemic.



CONTINUE COMMITMENT TO OUR TALENTED TEAM AND CULTURE OF EXCELLENCE



Visiting Our Schools

In the months since she stepped into her role, State Superintendent Grant has had the pleasure of visiting about two dozen schools across the District where she engaged with students, staff and community stakeholders. During these visits, State Superintendent Grant was able to go beyond building tours. At Aiton Elementary, she helped students launch rockets. While visiting Eliot-Hine Middle School during the first day of the 2021-22 school year, Superintendent Grant joined Mayor Bowser to hand out face masks while children reunited with their classmates and teachers. From participating in a ribbon-cutting at Richard Wright Public Charter School for Journalism and Media Arts and painting pumpkins with the pre-K students at Friendship Public Charter School (PCS) - Blow Pierce Elementary to touring the working farm (and even wrangling a chicken) at the Sojourner Truth School, these visits and experiences helped paint a fuller picture of DC schools. By the end of 2021, Superintendent Grant had visited nearly 30 public and public charter school campuses across the District. Those visits will continue as Superintendent Grant works toward visiting every LEA by the end of 2022.



Office of the State Superintendent of Education **VIRTUAL HIRING FAIR**

Nov. 16-17

bit.ly/OSSEHiringFair

First-Ever Virtual Hiring Fair

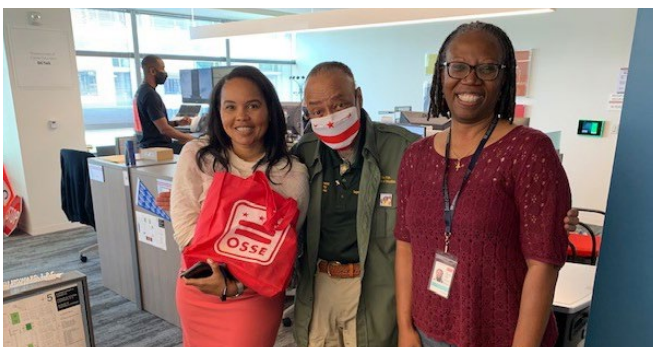
The depth and breadth of OSSE's work have increased exponentially over the last two years, especially as we've shifted from pandemic response to recovery and restoration. To ramp up that work, OSSE's Human Resources Team, Deputy Superintendent Team and hiring managers from across the agency participated in the city's first-ever virtual hiring fair. The teams learned together as they made their way through this new process, and on a timeline that would have been considered unbelievable before, they created job descriptions, interview questions and performance tasks so these positions could be featured during the virtual hiring fair.

Of any agency that participated in the fair, OSSE had the most offerings, candidates and screeners - with 12 screeners interacting with nearly 1,000 candidates over two days. As a result of the fair, 40 candidates were selected to move on to the next phase of the hiring process.

The November Virtual Hiring Fair

- Nearly 1,000 applicants chatted with OSSE screeners
- Almost 350 applicants moved on for further screening
- Nearly 90 performance tasks reviewed
- Nearly 100 interviews completed in nine days

40 CANDIDATES SELECTED TO MOVE ON TO PRE-EMPLOYMENT



Cultivating a Flexible, Engaged Workforce

After a year of working remotely, returning to the office was no small feat. And when it came time to begin planning for all staff to come back to the office starting in May 2021, the Operations Team led those efforts and worked to convene the Agency Re-Opening Team, which developed the systems and processes that would allow for a smooth and safe return. From ordering and distributing more than 1 million pieces of PPE and updating badges to making sure our office space was in the best shape possible, OSSE staff worked to ensure everyone could come back to work safely.

When OSSE staff celebrated the return to the office in July, the building was full of joy and energy – the kind that's only possible when people are together, and that carried through the remainder of 2021. Throughout the pandemic, OSSE staff have proven their unwavering dedication to the residents of the District by remaining flexible, diligent and focused on OSSE's core values.



CELEBRATING OUR EDUCATORS

Dominique Foster named 2022 DC Teacher of the Year

During an October 2021 event disguised as a leaf collection and pumpkin composting demonstration, Mayor Bowser joined State Superintendent Grant in October to surprise Dominique Foster, a pre-K teacher at Friendship PCS – Blow Pierce Elementary, with the 2022 DC Teacher of the Year Award. Foster, who has been teaching for 13 years, received prestigious honor, which comes with a \$7,500 prize, in front of her students, colleagues, friends and her daughter. Awarded annually, DC Teacher of the Year recognizes a DC Public School or public charter school teacher who has demonstrated outstanding leadership and commitment to student achievement.



State Superintendent Christina Grant, 2022 DC Teacher of the Year Dominique Foster and Friendship Public Charter School CEO Patricia A. Brantley



Alejandro Diasgranados



Lauren McKenzie



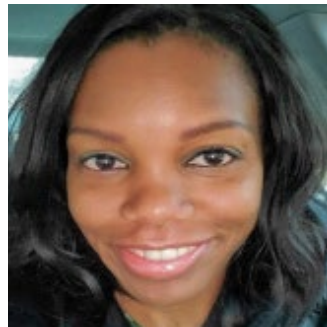
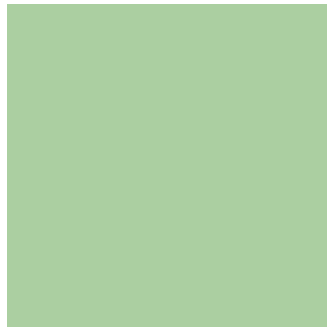
Shelina Warren

Honoring Excellent DC Educators

The critical role of teachers in the lives of District students continued to be evident in 2021 as educators across the city worked tirelessly to meet student needs and accelerate learning amidst challenging circumstances. OSSE had the honor of recognizing several outstanding educators in 2021. Alejandro Diasgranados, a teacher at Aiton Elementary School and the 2021 District of Columbia Teacher of the Year, was named as a Top Four Finalist for the National Teacher of the Year award. He leveraged this platform to advocate for better representation in the educator workforce, especially for Black male students.

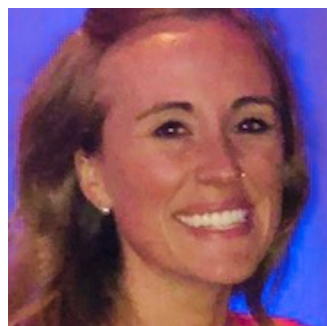
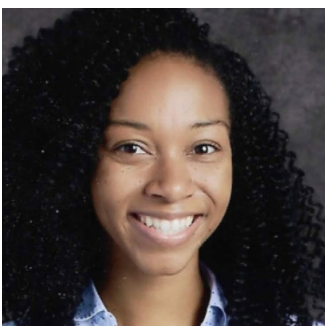
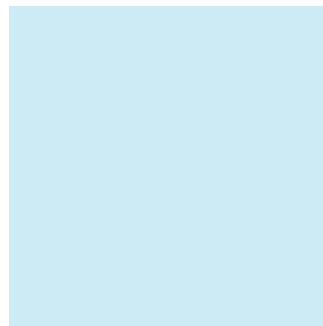
In their roles as 2021 DC TOY runners up, Shelina Warren, social studies teacher at Paul Laurence Dunbar High School, and Lauren McKenzie, social studies teacher at Ron Brown College Preparatory High School, showcased culturally responsive and inclusive instructional practices, and empowered students to use their voices for social justice. Caneisha Mills, an 8th grade US History teacher at Rose L. Hardy Middle School, was named the 2021 District of Columbia History Teacher of the Year. These teachers demonstrate excellence in their instruction and dedication to students and families throughout the District and serve as role models for their colleagues.

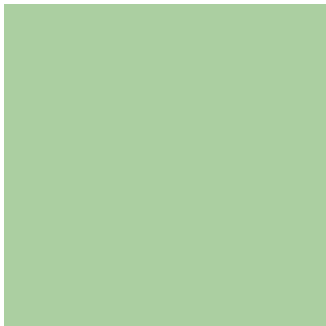
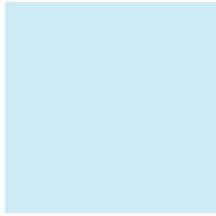
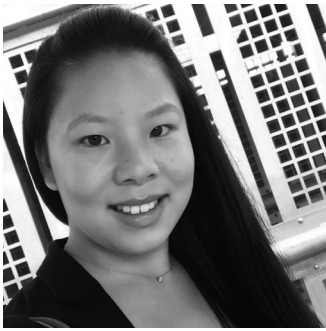




Teacher and Principal Advisory Councils

In 2021, OSSE continued to leverage the Superintendent’s Principal Advisory Council (PAC) and Teacher Advisory Council (TAC) to serve as a brain trust and thought partner for OSSE leadership around critical topics such as educator wellness, serving students with disabilities, high-quality literacy instruction and materials, and leveraging micro-credentials to strengthen educator practices. The TAC and PAC also shared insights, suggestions and feedback on OSSE initiatives and resources to support educators, schools and LEAs during the pandemic and in planning for recovery. The TAC and PAC consist of diverse educators, representative of the teacher and school leader workforce across the city, including traditional public and public charter schools.







Office of the State Superintendent of Education
1050 First Street, NE, Washington, DC 20002