

## Spotlight On: Sharifa Cummins

Harmony DC PCS - School of Excellence | Early Childhood Education | 23 Years in Education



*Sharifa describes her teaching style as cheerful, imaginative, and balanced.*

**“Two things I love about teaching are the feeling I get when my student finally understands and their reaction when it clicks.”**

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

“I had several experiences in elementary school that inspired me to become a teacher. I had teachers who I knew didn’t care if I learned or about my well-being, and others who got involved and went above and beyond to ensure I did the work and passed. They knew I had the potential to do well, and they worked hard to make sure I knew I could do better. My love for teaching, caring for my students, and fully supporting their parents stems from how my teachers cared for and supported me.”

### **What is your favorite thing about teaching?**

“Two things I love about teaching are the feeling I get when my student finally understands and their reaction when it clicks. I celebrate them every time they learn something new, even if it’s something small like putting on their coat.”

**“My love for teaching, caring for my students, and fully supporting their parents stems from how my teachers cared for and supported me.”**



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

“So far, it’s been wonderfully positive. I’m learning among a bunch of aspiring educators who love their students like I do, who’ve had the same work and financial experiences as I’ve had. I speak for many when I say I can’t be anything but grateful for this opportunity. It’s given me a sense of confidence because I’m allowed to practice before I lead, and who knew that a mentor teacher who cares about my success is what I needed all along.”

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

“I didn’t complete my degree the first time due to financial strain and lack of support. The OSSE Apprenticeship in Teaching program offers support without having to worry about finances after graduation, so go for it! Do not let this opportunity pass you by. You have the chance to inspire future generations.”

*For more information about the OSSE Apprenticeship in Teaching program, please visit [osse.dc.gov/page/osse-apprenticeship-teaching](http://osse.dc.gov/page/osse-apprenticeship-teaching).*