



DC'S NEW STATE EDUCATION PLAN: THE EVERY STUDENT SUCCEEDS ACT

The quality of education in DC is improving, but we've got a long way to go to reach our goal of being the fastest improving city and state in the nation. In the 2015-16 school year, only about one-quarter of DC students were on grade level and on track to be ready for college and careers after high school. Also, despite effort and resources to ensure educational equity across the city, we see deep and persistent achievement gaps between different groups of students.

We know that all our students can learn and achieve at high levels, and we believe we can build the systems that will get them there. The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), a federal education law passed in December 2015, gives DC the chance to collectively address the question: **How can we accelerate educational outcomes for all students?**

DC's State Education Plan was written by the Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE) in partnership with educators, families, and the community. It establishes a common school transparency and reporting system across all our schools. This new common system, called the STAR Framework, will create the foundation for and drive progress in student outcomes through two key avenues:

1. Providing parents and families with **clear and consistent** information so they can make informed decisions for their children and engage in their school communities, and
2. Providing educators, leaders and policymakers with a **common understanding of our schools' outcomes**, including our highest and lowest performing schools, to form the basis for **real collaboration and learning**, as well as focused **supports and interventions**.

How will this plan help improve outcomes for students?

1 CLEAR AND CONSISTENT INFORMATION FOR PARENTS AND FAMILIES:

Currently, the District of Columbia has numerous ways of measuring the performance of schools and communicating important information to families and the public, including separate systems for District of Columbia Public Schools (DCPS) and charter organizations. This information is included on platforms such as Learn DC, School Equity Reports, and as part of the My School DC lottery system. These multiple systems and information platforms can be difficult to interpret and sometimes conflict with each other, leaving parents and families without a way to compare educational options for their child.

DC now has the ability to shape a school transparency and reporting framework that addresses our city's unique needs and strengths. The DC State Education Plan establishes a common accountability system, called the STAR Framework, used by both charter and DCPS schools. It provides a simple and clear rating for schools, ranging from one star to five stars. This summative rating will be paired with a comprehensive school report card, so that parents and families can find additional, detailed information about many aspects of a school through data and qualitative information. The STAR Framework and report cards will support families seeking to make choices and engage in their school communities



2 DRIVE COLLABORATION THROUGH COLLECTIVE UNDERSTANDING OF SCHOOL PROGRESS:

The STAR Framework will help DC recognize and celebrate schools that are doing well in a range of areas. For example, we will now be able to celebrate schools where students have high growth on annual academic assessments, in addition to those where a significant number of students are performing at the college- and career-ready benchmark level. In high school, STAR will credit schools that support students in graduating from high school, even when they need additional time to do so. Furthermore, DC will be able to recognize schools that are doing outstanding work with specific groups of students, such as English learners.

A common understanding of school performance also will help spread promising strategies across schools. By identifying positive trends through commonly measured data and information, educators and policymakers will better be able to pinpoint school-level strategies that are working, and encourage replication of those strategies. The common framework also will improve our ability to target resources to schools that need more support in their specific areas of need.

3 HIGH QUALITY SUPPORTS AND RESOURCES FOR TEACHERS AND EDUCATORS:

Inside the school building, the most important factor in a child's education is his or her teacher. The DC State Education Plan details continued support for DCPS, charter organizations, and schools by providing resources and training for teachers, identifying leadership opportunities for educators, and assisting with information to help fill gaps in teacher recruitment and retention.

The DC State Education Plan includes additional supports for teachers and educators:

- Launch of new high-quality optional professional development opportunities for educators. Professional development will include topics open to all educators as well as opportunities targeted to teachers of specific groups of students (for example, students with disabilities) or that are subject-specific.
- Creation of teacher and principal leadership opportunities for District of Columbia educators: groups of excellent teachers and school leaders who advise OSSE and lead professional development for other educators.
- Continued opportunities to support excellent educators include working with schools to research what qualities, background, and certification make for successful teachers, maintaining a teacher talent information hub where schools can post information about teacher vacancies, and supporting the Model Teacher Evaluation System, a framework for effective teaching and related resources.

Want to learn more?

Read DC's State Education Plan: <http://bit.ly/2mYE73P>

View resources about ESSA and the development of the DC State Education Plan: <http://osse.dc.gov/essa>

Check out OSSE's Strategic Plan and 2016 Annual Report: <http://osse.dc.gov/strategicplan>