



DC Cross-Sector Collaboration Task Force: Overview

August 2015

PURPOSE

The Office of the Deputy Mayor for Education (DME) is launching a task force charged with developing a report for the Mayor with clear and fair recommendations on how to improve the coherence of public education in DC for parents and increase the collaboration across and among public schools to improve effectiveness, efficiency, and student outcomes. The task force will focus its efforts on identifying key aspects of education that would benefit from cross-sector –DC Public School (DCPS) and public charter schools – efforts.

GOALS

The Task Force will:

- **Develop a framework for coordinating processes on school openings, closings, and facilities planning.** Priority issues and projects include:
 - Develop guiding principles on what data and information should inform program and facilities planning
 - Establish formal processes for securing and considering public input
 - Determine decision making timelines
- **Develop methods for information sharing with the public and across public school sectors.** Priority issues and projects include:
 - Promote resource sharing networks for best practices
 - Make school planning data accessible to the public
- **Promote enrollment stability.** Priority issues and projects include:
 - Recommend policies to decrease student mobility
 - Identify ways in which to address the challenges faced by schools that have high mobility rates
 - Explore cross-sector feeder patterns
- **Identify educational challenges that need to be addressed through cross-sector collaboration,** for instance, increasing high school graduation rates, re-engaging disengaged youth, or creating more career and technical education opportunities.
- **Improve the experience of parents and families understanding and navigating their public school options.** Priority issues and projects include:
 - Increase parent/guardian access to robust and clear data and information on school performance
 - Enhance My School DC and Learn DC platforms to reflect meaningful information that families need to better navigate their school rights and choices



- Explore centralization and automation of the Universal Healthcare Certificate and the residency verification process

STRUCTURE

The task force will be a two year effort, and will tackle issues in a phased approach. The task force, chaired by the DME, will be comprised of between 23-25 members with diverse representation of LEAs, district agencies, and public school parents. Membership will be balanced across sectors, demographics and ward of residence. The task force will be supported by a technical working group, managed by the DME, which will gather and analyze data for the purpose of informing the work of the task force.

Public input is critical to ensuring that we develop sound and meaningful recommendations. There will be multiple opportunities to engage with the DME and Task Force members throughout the process. Details and timing of each will be released at a later date.

- **Participate in a Focus Group.** Opportunity to provide in-depth issue-specific input into various policy options and strategies being considered by the Task Force.
- **Attend community meetings.** Opportunity to provide feedback on policies and strategies being considered by the Task Force. Both small and large scale meeting will be organized.
- **Participate in an online survey.** Opportunity to provide feedback on-line.
- **Testify** in a public roundtable held by the Task Force.
- **Participate in Local Education Agency (LEA) meetings** – Opportunity for school leaders and staff to engage and provide ongoing feedback.

The task force will meet monthly from October 2015 through July 2017, and meetings will be closed to the public. However, to support transparency and trust with the public, all meeting materials and meeting minutes will be posted on the DME website. Community input will be critical to the success of the task force. Therefore, a public engagement calendar will be developed by the task force that will outline the timeline and opportunities for public engagement.