



In celebration of **DC Parent Voice and Choice Week (DCPVCW)**, last week, PAVE continued our four-year tradition of hosting breakfast and luncheons at the Wilson Building to foster a more meaningful partnership between DC parents and education leaders. This year, PAVE parent leaders joined us the Wilson Building to share their stories and education priorities, **making 199 touch points with 11 DC Councilmembers and the Deputy Mayor for Education**, including:

- [Councilmember Brianne Nadeau \(Ward 1\)](#)
- [Councilmember Jack Evans \(Ward 2\)](#)
- [Councilmember Brandon Todd \(Ward 4\)](#)
- [Councilmember Kenyan McDuffie \(Ward 5\)](#)
- [Councilmember Charles Allen \(Ward 6\)](#)
- [Councilmember Vincent Gray \(Ward 7\)](#)
- [Councilmember Trayon White \(Ward 8\)](#)
- [Chair of the Committee on Education, Councilmember David Grosso \(At-Large\)](#)
- [DC Council Chairman Phil Mendelson and Deputy Committee Director Christina Setlow](#)
- [Councilmember Robert White \(At-Large\)](#)
- [Councilmember Elissa Silverman \(At-Large\)](#)
- [Deputy Mayor for Education Paul Kihn](#)

Vincent Gray

Ward 7 Councilmember

*There's nothing more important than the voice of a parent or grandparent that is **informed**.*



Because real school choice doesn't happen without our parent leaders, last year we re-focused how we recognize National School Choice Week by putting the voices, needs, and priorities of our families at the center of this event – and **DC Parent Voice and Choice Week** was born!

Read Our Op-ed: "Real School Choice Starts With Parent Voice" by Maya Martin Cadogan

Now, each year, PAVE PLE Board members lead the meetings with their elected officials and policymakers at the Wilson Building to advocate on behalf of ALL DC families and a more equitable education system.

Kenyan McDuffie

Ward 5 Councilmember

*I want to work with you to close the educational achievement gap in a way that **inspires parents** in underserved communities to feel good about their schools.*



In preparation for DCPVCW, PAVE's Citywide and ward-based PLE Boards met over the last five months to discuss their education priorities, develop their statements of belief, and prepare questions for their representatives – kicking off their advocacy for the two issues parents identified as being the most important to them at our Second-Annual Parent Policy Summit in May 2018: Transparent Citywide School Funding and Mental Health Supports and Trauma-Informed Training for All Schools.

Read our Next Steps section below to learn more about our issue areas and how you can get involved to support parent priorities!

[Check out our favorite moments from DC Parent Voice and Choice Week!](#)



Want more from DCPVCW? Make sure to follow [@dcpavevoices](#) on [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#) to see all the highlights PAVE parent leaders shared during their meetings with elected officials!

Our Issues Amplified: Next Steps

In the coming months, PAVE Parent leaders will be calling on Mayor Bowser and the DC Council to support the priorities parents have outlined to achieve greater school budget transparency and universal access to mental health supports. Learn more by reading our full statements of beliefs on [Transparent Citywide School Funding](#) and [Mental Health Supports and Trauma-Informed Training for All Schools](#).

[Mental Health Supports and](#)

Trauma-Informed Training

In order to create an education system full of great schools that are supporting the mental health needs of our students, parent leaders have identified the following set of priorities that we believe our city leaders should make a reality:

1. Conduct an in-depth needs assessment to determine what mental health supports are currently available in schools and to identify where there are gaps in supports and services.

2. Develop a standard of best practices on how to consistently and meaningfully engage parents, families, and communities in the development of the school culture and the implementation of mental health supports.

3. Invest a total of \$54 million for mental health supports in schools, including:

- **\$10,779,912** to provide comprehensive trauma-informed training for all DC school staff,
- **\$859,584** to fund robust social-emotional learning programs and support the implementation of on-going evidence-based curriculum, and
- **\$41,853,200** to add 4 in-school full-time mental health professionals to support our highest-need school populations.

Support #ParentPriorities and Join Our Coalition

**Transparent Citywide
School Funding**

In order to create a citywide school budget process that is meeting the individual needs of all of our schools - and therefore, all of our kids, PAVE parent leaders identified the following set of priorities to promote Transparent Citywide Funding:

1. Work with DCPS and public charter schools to create a uniform budget reporting format that allows stakeholders to compare information across all schools in both sectors.

2. Develop a standard of best practices for schools in order to meaningfully include parent voice in the budget development process.

3. Develop a budget evaluation system and needs assessment to ensure that the investments made by LEAs and individual schools provide adequate resources and promote excellence in every single one of our schools.

Support #ParentPriorities and Join Our Coalition

Keep in touch! Sign up to [join the PAVE listserv.](#)

Do you have events and opportunities to share with PAVE?

Email us at info@dcpave.org.



PAVE (Parents Amplifying Voices in Education) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that connects, informs, and empowers parent leaders to give families in DC a voice and a choice in the vision for education in our city. PAVE's goal is to create an education system in which parents are partners in developing a diversity of safe, nurturing, and great schools for every child in every ward and community.