

## DC ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON STUDENT ASSIGNMENT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 21, 2014

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### DC ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON STUDENT ASSIGNMENT RELEASES ITS FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS *Mayor Vincent C. Gray agrees to adopt Committee's recommendations.*

WASHINGTON — Today, the DC Advisory Committee on Student Assignment released its final recommendations to update student assignment policies, school boundaries, and feeder pathways. The Advisory Committee transmitted its recommendations to Mayor Vincent C. Gray on August 18. Mayor Gray sent a letter to the Committee today accepting its full set of final recommendations, and directing Deputy Mayor for Education Abigail Smith and DCPS Chancellor Kaya Henderson to develop an implementation plan by the end of October.

The recommendations were developed following substantial research and data analysis and extensive community input. Over the past ten months, the Advisory Committee held more than a dozen committee meetings and spent hundreds of hours considering input received in focus groups, community working groups, and through numerous e-mail inquiries and comments.

The committee considered the diverse and unique needs of the District's families. As such, the recommended phase-in policies are extensive and minimize the impact of boundary changes. No student will have to leave their current DCPS school based on these changes. For additional information about how the boundary changes will be phased-in, please refer to the Phase-In FAQ document at [dme.dc.gov/boundaries](http://dme.dc.gov/boundaries).

“We are deeply grateful to the hundreds of parents and community members whose voices helped to shape these recommendations. It was a huge undertaking and we did our best to weigh the many factors that affect where children are assigned and how families access public school options. I hope this process encourages more ongoing comprehensive education planning.” said Eboni-Rose Thompson, Ward 7 resident and chairperson of the Ward 7 Education Council.

The revised boundaries, feeder pathways, and policy recommendations support a citywide system of zoned public schools and equitable access to a complement of school options.

Implementation of the policy recommendations of the Committee will bring about some exciting new opportunities for families:

- Guaranteed PK seats for in-boundary families at Title 1 schools;

- A preference in the lottery for students categorized as “at-risk”; a policy that will also apply to public charter schools if the Council approves such a measure;
- More equitable placement of specialized and selective programs and schools;
- The opportunity to attend new DCPS middle schools, following the planned investment in middle school programs and facilities in Wards 2, 4 and 7; and
- A preference in the lottery for students who live over a half-mile in walking distance from their zoned DCPS school to a DCPS school that is within half a mile, affirming the importance of supporting and encouraging walking to DCPS elementary schools.

“We are pleased that the Mayor has accepted the recommendations and will move forward,” said Cathy Reilly, Advisory Committee member, Ward 4 resident, and executive director of the Senior High Alliance of Parents, Principals, and Educators. “This process was long overdue and I look forward to working with DCPS and our communities in strengthening our neighborhood schools.”

The Advisory Committee is composed of 22 community members from each of the city’s eight wards, including both DCPS and public charter school parents, representatives of DC Public Schools, the DC Office of Planning, the Office of the Deputy Mayor for Health and Human Services, and the Deputy Mayor for Education.

To see the full recommendations report and view the full list of committee members, visit [dme.dc.gov/boundaries](http://dme.dc.gov/boundaries).

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