

**GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**  
**Office of the Deputy Mayor for Education**

**Abigail Smith**  
**Deputy Mayor for Education**



October 28, 2013

Dear Parent/Community Member,

We are launching the process to revise DCPS school boundaries and feeder patterns, as part of a broader look at public school student assignment policies. The goal of this process is to develop fair and clear school choice and student assignment policies that reflect what families want - clarity, predictability, and access to high quality school options at locations that make sense for them. Specifically,

- To clarify what rights and responsibilities families and schools have regarding access to public schools;
- To update feeder relationships between DCPS elementary, middle, and high schools to ensure a clear and coherent path through the grade levels;
- To ensure that the DCPS boundaries align to the DCPS facility capacity and projected population of students; and
- To explore opportunities to bridge student-assignment and choice policies across DCPS and charter schools.

The District has not undertaken a comprehensive review of its student assignment policies, including DCPS school attendance boundaries and feeder patterns, since the 1970s. Meanwhile, DCPS schools and public charter schools have opened and closed, and the city's population has shifted.

Over the next eleven months, my office will lead the effort to review current policies and practices, identify challenges, analyze data, and recommend solutions. To help us, we have established a 21-member committee to evaluate options and offer recommendations. The **DC Advisory Committee on Student Assignment** includes members with varied perspectives who are strongly invested in the success of the public education system and the future of our city. The Committee, which includes public school parents from throughout the District, will incorporate public discussion, research, and analysis to provide fair minded and informed recommendations to be presented in May 2014. The plan will be finalized in the fall of 2014, and will begin to take effect in the fall of 2015. However, to support a smooth transition, "grandfathering" provisions will buffer the immediate impact on many current students and their families.

Engaging the public through an Advisory Committee alone is not enough. This process will not be successful without extensive public engagement and input. Families who send their children to public school and residents who are invested in the social and economic well-being of the city all have a stake in the policies that govern DCPS school assignment. For this reason, we have multiple opportunities for parents and community members to get involved and provide input throughout the process.

- **Participate in a Focus Group**
- **Volunteer to join a Working Group**
- **Share your ideas and thoughts on EngageDC.org**
- **Attend citywide community dialogues**
- **Participate in an online survey**

To learn more about how to get involved and to sign up for focus and working groups, please see the attached FAQ or go to [dme.dc.gov](http://dme.dc.gov).

There is a lot of hard work ahead, but I am confident that together we will do what is best for students and families.

Thank you,



Abigail Smith  
Deputy Mayor for Education