



DC Cross-Sector Collaboration Task Force **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

What is the purpose of the Cross-Sector Collaboration Task Force?

With approximately 55% of public school students attending DC Public School (DCPS) and 45% attending a public charter school, the next chapter of improving education in DC is for both sectors to work together. Education leaders from across the city have expressed their desire and willingness to come to the table to work collaboratively, and the Task Force is a unique opportunity to do so.

As such, the Office of the Deputy Mayor for Education (DME) has been tasked by Mayor Bowser with establishing a task force charged with developing clear and fair recommendations on how to improve the coherence among and collaboration across public schools to improve effectiveness and efficiency. The Task Force will focus its efforts on recommending strategies and solutions for the priority issues that will have the most impact on improving student outcomes for all public schools in the District of Columbia.

For examples of issues and projects that the task force will undertake, please see the answer to the goals of the process below.

What do you mean by “cross-sector collaboration”?

The District of Columbia has two public education sectors, DCPS and public charter schools. DCPS is one local education agency (LEA) made up of over 100 school campuses. There are 63 public charter LEAs with over 100 school campuses (SY15-16). The Task Force is charged with working with leaders from each sector and the public to identify how best to collaborate and align strategies and processes to address challenges faced by schools and families in both sectors.

Essential to this collaboration is a willingness to work with each other. The My School DC common lottery (www.myschooldc.org) and the DC Equity Reports (<http://www.learndc.org/schoolprofiles/view?s=dc#equityreport>) are two examples of successful cross-sector initiatives that led to increased access to information for parents and families. Equity reports, in particular, have helped spotlight issue areas for schools that have resulted in improved practices.

What are the goals of this process?

The Task Force will focus its work on the following five goals. While the task force will begin with the priority projects and issues listed below, the scope may not be limited to the projects listed here.

- **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
- **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
- **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.

How does this align with Mayor Bowser’s vision for improving education for all students?

Mayor Bowser is committed to ensuring that all District residents have access to high quality public education in all eight wards. In order to have the most impact on student outcomes, both sectors must work together to tackle the city’s biggest educational challenges. The Task Force will jump start a public dialogue on these issues.



When will recommendations be submitted to the Mayor?

The Task Force will be a two-year initiative. Although a final report will be issued at the end of two years, the intent is to develop recommendations in stages, as the Task Force tackles specific issues and projects. We expect to see tangible outcomes of this work along the way. All recommendations will be informed by public input before being finalized and will be shared widely.

Who has authority to implement recommendations?

It depends on the nature of the recommendation. The Mayor has authority over DCPS, the Office of the State Superintendent for Education (OSSE), and the Office of the Deputy Mayor for Education (DME) and can implement most policy changes affecting these agencies. Some policy changes may trigger a change in the DC Municipal Regulations (DCMR) and would therefore need to adhere to the applicable process. Others may require action by the City Council. Recommendations impacting public charter schools would be made to the Public Charter School Board (PCSB) and would be considered by members of the Board and charter school community.

Is this Task Force the only mechanism by which we identify ways to collaborate across sectors?

No. The role of the Office of the Deputy Mayor for Education (DME) is to ensure the city is working collaboratively across public school sectors and government agencies. The DME is uniquely positioned to ensure that the city approaches the goal of building a world class education system by leveraging the strengths of both sectors and working with all stakeholders. While schools work collaboratively around practice and instruction, there is little coordination on policy. The Task Force will build on the work already in place – like Equity Reports and the My School DC common lottery – to foster a stronger foundation and better policy infrastructure for ongoing and strategic partnerships and coordination.

What is the role and structure of the Task Force?

The Task Force is charged with making recommendations to the Mayor on how best to increase transparency and coordination across and among public schools. The Task Force is made up of a diverse group of District residents and agency representatives who are dedicated to improving the educational experience for District students and families. Members include public school parents, school leaders, community members, and relevant government agency representatives. Mayor Anthony Williams and Deputy Mayor for Education Jennie Niles will serve as co-chairs of the Task Force; for a full list of members and their affiliations, please visit www.dme.dc.gov/collaboration.



The Task Force will be a two year initiative, meeting approximately nine times a year.

How were the Task Force members chosen?

The goal of assembling this committee was to identify a diverse group of individuals that can represent a wide variety of perspectives and experiences, and in response, there was an overwhelming interest from community members, with over 100 people nominated for the Task Force. After careful consideration, the DME extended invitations to 26 individuals. The following factors were considered when selecting members:

- Geographic and demographic diversity
- Sector and citywide perspective
 - A good balance of leaders and parents from both sectors as well as community members with citywide perspectives and experiences
- Content Knowledge
 - Understands the education landscape and the need for increased collaboration. This can also include professional or personal experiences that are relevant to the work of the Task Force.
- Commitment to Broader Engagement
 - Willing to work cooperatively with others, willing to engage/interact the broader public in this work, adept in navigating a variety of communities and perspectives on these issues.

Are the Task Force meetings open to the public?

In order to ensure complete transparency, the meetings of the Task Force will be open to the public. In addition to posting our meeting agendas, materials, and meeting summaries, we will also post relevant resources on our website.

When will meetings be held?

Meetings of the Cross-Sector Task Force will be held once per month. All meeting times, dates, and locations will be posted to the DME website and noticed through <http://www.bega-dc.gov/board-commission/meetings>.

How can parents, students and the public participate in the process?

Public input is critical to ensuring that we develop sound and meaningful recommendations. There will be multiple ways of engaging with the DME and Task Force members throughout the process. Opportunities will include

- **Participating in a Focus Group.** Opportunity to provide in-depth input into various issues and strategies being considered by the Task Force. Stay tuned for a schedule of focus groups to be held in February!
- **Attending 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.
- **Participating in an online survey.** Opportunity to provide feedback on-line.
- **Testifying** in a public roundtable held by the Task Force.
- **Participating in Local Education Agency (LEA) meetings** – Opportunity for school leaders and staff to engage and provide ongoing feedback.

Details and timing of each of these opportunities will be released at a later date, with information posted on www.dme.dc.gov/collaboration.

Who do you contact if you have questions?

If you have any questions, please email collaboration@dc.gov or call (202)727-0696.

¿Con quién puede comunicarse si tiene preguntas?

Si tiene alguna pregunta, por favor escriba un correo electrónico a collaboration@dc.gov, o llame al (202) 727-0696.

Qui contacter si vous avez des questions à poser ?

Si vous avez des questions à poser, veuillez envoyer un courriel à collaboration@dc.gov ou appeler le (202) 727-0696.

如果您有问题，应当与谁联系？

如果您有任何问题，请发电子邮件至collaboration@dc.gov，或拨打电话号码 (202) 727-0696。

Nếu có thắc mắc quý vị sẽ hỏi ai?

Nếu quý vị có thắc mắc, xin gửi thư điện tử cho collaboration@dc.gov hoặc gọi (202) 727-0696.

문의 사항이 있으면 어디에 연락하시겠습니까?

문의 사항이 있으시면 collaboration@dc.gov 에 이메일을 주시거나 (202) 727-0696로 전화해



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