



## DC Cross-Sector Collaboration Task Force

### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

#### **Why was this task force created?**

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

With approximately 56% of public school students attending DC Public School (DCPS) and 44% 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. 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 our schools and families.

Essential to the collaboration process is a willingness to work with each other.

The My School DC common lottery ([www.myschooldc.org](http://www.myschooldc.org)) and the DC Equity Reports (<http://osse.dc.gov/service/equity-reports-sy-2012-2013>) are two examples of successful cross sector initiatives that led to increased access to information for parents and families.

#### **What are the goals of this process?**

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

- **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.

**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 intention is to develop recommendations in stages – as the Task Force tackles specific issues and projects. All recommendations will be informed by public input before being finalized and will be shared publicly.



### **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.

### **What is the role and structure of the Task Force and how were members chosen?**

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 DME is committed to identifying a diverse group of District residents and agency representatives who are dedicated to improving the educational experience for District students and families. Members will include public school parents, school leaders, and relevant government agency representatives. Deputy Mayor for Education Jennie Niles will serve as Chair of the Task Force.

If you are interested in participating in the Task Force or wish to nominate someone, please email the following information to [collaboration@dc.gov](mailto:collaboration@dc.gov): name of person being nominated, nominee contact information, and why the person would be a good member of the Task Force.

The Task Force will be a two year initiative, meeting approximately nine times a year. The DME will identify and confirm members over in August and September with the goal of holding the first meeting in October. The meetings will be closed to the public at large, but the DME will post all meeting materials and meeting summaries on the DME webpage.

### **Are the Task Force meetings open to the public?**

The Task Force meetings are closed to the public. After considerable thought, the decision was made in order to ensure we establish a safe and productive environment for Task Force members to have an open and honest dialogue with each other. This dynamic is compromised when there are non-member observers acting as an audience. While task force meetings are closed to the public, we believe that transparency is vital to ensuring a successful process. For this reason, all meeting materials and summaries of discussions will be posted on the DME website. Sharing all materials coupled with holding focus groups and community meetings, will ensure that the public remains informed and has multiple opportunities to engage and provide input.



**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 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.

**Who do you contact if you have questions?**

If you have any questions, please email [collaboration@dc.gov](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:collaboration@dc.gov) hoặc gọi (202) 727-0696.

**문의 사항이 있으면 어디에 연락하시겠습니까?**

문의 사항이 있으시면 [collaboration@dc.gov](mailto:collaboration@dc.gov)에 이메일을 주시거나 (202) 727-0696로 전화해 주시기 바랍니다.

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