Announcements and Opportunities:

- **Globalize DC** Autumn is the prime application season for incredible, fully funded study abroad programs for students and educators - many sponsored by the US Department of State. Organizers are feeling optimistic that international exchanges will resume next summer and next school year - so don't miss out. Now's the time to act. APPLY! And please help us share this information with those who might have an interest and would benefit - especially those students in Wards 5, 7, and 8. We will also be posting these opportunities and others on our website at [www.globalizedc.org](http://www.globalizedc.org).

- **DCPS Global Education @DCGlobalEd** For SY 2021-22, DCPS is launching DCPS Study Abroad: Stateside. Due to our continued prioritization of health and safety during the COVID-19 pandemic, DCPS Study Abroad will travel to only domestic destinations for summer 2022. For more information, visit [dcpsglobaled.org](http://dcpsglobaled.org).

- **Vaccine Mandate for students**: Wards 2 and 6 have asked our school PTO/LSAT leaders (in the case of W6PSPO, broader community) to consider encouraging their PTOs to send letters to the Mayor and Chairman in support of a Covid-19 vaccine
mandate for eligible students. They are hopeful that a strong support for a mandate on behalf of school communities will give the Mayor and Council space to pursue this and in the end, make our schools safer. Here are two strategies that others have used, there are others: A 1. general body meeting, 2. general body vote, 3. letter on behalf of pto general body. B 1. short parent poll, 2. board vote, 3. letter on behalf of pto board.

In Ward 6, Eastern Senior HS' PTO issued a letter yesterday.

In Ward 2, School Without Walls HS' HSA issued a letter last week. Here is more help bit.ly/dcstudentvax

- The D.C.State Board of Education (SBOE) invites District families and residents to complete a 6-minute survey. The purpose of this family/general public survey is to better understand D.C. residents’ experiences with the District’s school accountability system—the School Transparency and Reporting (STAR) Framework—as we consider what, if any, changes should be made to it. We recommend that you use a computer or tablet to fill out this survey. Thank you for taking the time to fill this out, and please know your identity will remain anonymous. We ask that you submit responses no later than Monday, November 8 at 5 p.m. If you have any questions, please reach out to the State Board at darren.fleischer@dc.gov. Please use the following links to start STAR Framework Family/General Public Survey: English Version: http://bit.ly/3n2iuk8 Spanish Version: bit.ly/3FY7oVS

- Information that is available on the budget template so far for next year is located here: https://dcpsbudget.com/budget-process-timeline/budget-stakeholder-input/

- Announcements: DCPS Vaccination Sites for students 12 -18 https://dcpsreopenstrong.com/vaccines/

- DC Public Charter School Board will not be accepting applications for new local education agencies (schools) or for grade expansions through the remainder of 2021 or during 2022. https://dcpcsb.org/board-re-envision-charter-application-and-grade-expansion-rubric-and-evaluation-process

- Teacher-Led Advocacy: See a list of opportunities to get involved in teacher-led advocacy from EmpowerEd on various issues here. DC Teacher Voice Festival: https://www.dcareaeducators4socialjustice.org/events/2021-dc-teacher-voice-festival

- ACLU-DC is currently hiring for a Community Engagement Associate, who would work in our policy department and closely with our growing organizing team!

Please find the job description here and share with your networks! Extra shout out to sharing this with folks in directly impacted communities that would be a great fit for this role. Help in spreading the word would be very much appreciated.

http://www.c4dcpublicschools.org/
Upcoming SBOE and Council Hearings:

- **DC Public Education Budget Hearing on Nov. 9th.** Register here to testify or listen https://allevents.in/online/dc-public-schools-fiscal-year-23-school-year-22-23-public-budget-hearing/10000182061098647

- **Redistricting Hearings** https://www.elissasilverman.com/redistricting

- **Safe Passage Bill**
  https://lims.dccouncil.us/downloads/LIMS/46492/Introduction/B24-0066-Introduction.pdf The Council held a hearing on Oct. 12th. There is a lot of support for this bill. There were important questions raised on implementation and the identification of priority areas.

- **Redefinition of Child Amendment Act of 2021** As introduced, Bill 24-338 would update the definition of the word “child” in District law. It would modernize the definition so that allegations of law violations by individuals under 18 years of age will be subject to juvenile delinquency proceedings in Family Court unless a judge transfers the matter to adult court. Cases could still be moved to adult court if a judge determines that the child cannot be rehabilitated in the juvenile system. Hearing has already taken place. There is a petition out on it here.

- October 20th 11am - **As introduced, Bill 24-200 would create a Digital Equity Division within the Office of the Chief Technology Officer.** It would require reporting on District residents’ access to High-speed intent service and requires that District residents have a high-speed internet connection. The Committee invites the public to testify remotely or to submit written testimony. Anyone wishing to testify must sign up at https://forms.gle/UrkjAKXjGWaPaQuD8 or by phone at (202) 741-8593, and provide their name, phone number or email, organizational affiliation, and title(if any) by the close of business on Monday, October 18th, 2021.

- **October 20, 2021 5:30pm SBOE Public Meeting:** The Board Is Considering the STAR framework this fall. To testify, notify Board staff in advance by phone at (202) 741-0888, by email at sboe@dc.gov, or by form no later than 48 hours in advance of the meeting. Individuals are asked to furnish their names, addresses, telephone numbers, and organizational affiliation, if any. https://sboe.dc.gov/events

- **October 26th 11am The Committee of the Whole will hold a Public Hearing on school governance issues.** Those who wish to testify must register at http://www.c4dcpublicschools.org/

**B24-80**, DC State Education Agency Independence Amendment Act of 2021 To amend the State Education Office Establishment Act of 2000 and the State Board of Education Establishment Act of 2007 to make the Office of State Superintendent of Education subordinate to the State Board of Education, add specific data collection and verification responsibilities to the Office of the State Superintendent of Education, and allow District of Columbia Public Schools employees to be members of the State Board of Education.


- **October 27, 10 am, hearing B24-423**, [Coronavirus Immunization of School Students And Early Childhood Workers Amendment Act of 2021](http://www.c4dcpublicschools.org/) This legislation would mandate student vaccinations in all of DC's publicly funded schools.

- November 5, 12 pm, hearing on B24-77, [DCPS Technology Equity Act of 2021](http://www.c4dcpublicschools.org/) requires the development of a comprehensive, multi-year technology plan for the District of Columbia Public Schools to support quality, equitable education that ensures one-to-one student and teacher device ratios, practical digital literacy training, robust remote and in-person school IT support and maintenance, improved technology infrastructure, and sufficient internet access for all to support learning in schools and at home. The purpose of this hearing is to hear testimony from DCPS and the public on DCPS's current plan to ensure, robust, and equitable technology for students and teachers and to enhance the internet.

- **Students’ Right to Read Amendment Act of 2021** is a bill that has been introduced as an amendment to the School Reform Act of 1995. It would require sufficient funding for a librarian at every DC Public School. No hearing date or bill number has been assigned.

**News**

- **Council Approves Emergency Measure on COVID and DCPS Schools**: the emergency bill will expand access to virtual learning for DCPS students, increase asymptomatic Covid-19 testing to 20% by November 15th. It allows students to have an
excused absence if they are home due to COVID related reasons and requires the city to publish more data on cases detected in schools. See article here.

- **Concern for School Admin and Staff** with increased requirements for COVID health safety, as well as insufficient substitutes to respond to quarantine requirements and increased incidence of sickness. See letter from Ward 2 Ed Council as example here.

- **The Chancellor sends a letter detailing additional resources to DC schools** including each school will be assigned a COVID Strategy & Logistics Coordinator. This position will help implement the COVID-19 protocols to support contact tracing, school notifications regarding COVID-19, and at-school testing operations.

Schools will be assigned a full-time substitute teacher to provide more consistent substitute teaching support. To continue to expand the substitute pool, DCPS will also increase the financial incentives to former DCPS staff to return as substitute teachers. If you know a retired teacher who may be interested, please have that teacher reach out to substitute.dcps@k12.dc.gov. Additionally, a pool of central services staff is working to complete the additional safety sensitive clearances to join the current cadre of substitutes. They will also utilize additional funding to continue to expand the COVID-19 response team.

- **School Renamings:** The DC Council heard testimony on Wed. Oct. 6th on proposals to rename West Elementary School the John Lewis ES. This was supported by testimony. The second bill was to rename Woodrow Wilson HS to August Wilson HS. This change was contested because the name Wilson would actually remain. See the testimony here. There are 19 more schools that will be up for renaming. See those names here. The Council has now put forth Jackson Reed as a name for the current Wilson HS and will hold a further hearing for additional input.

- **DC Department of Transportation is working on School Parking Zones per request by ANC's** See here for transportation resources https://godcgo.com/resources/

- **DC Council News:**
  

**Standing Meetings: Ward Councils and C4DC Members**

**Information and Meetings- click to get to websites**

- **Ward 2 Education Council:** Email: Ward2EdCouncil@gmail.com  Website: http://www.c4dcpublicschools.org/

Meetings:

- **Ward 3 – Wilson Feeder Education Network** Email: w3ednet@gmail.com, Meetings: Monthly
- **Ward 4 Education Alliance** Email: Ward4edalliance@gmail.com; Meetings: 2nd Thursday of the month
- **Ward 5 Education Equity Committee** Email: contact@ward5eec.org Meetings: 3rd Tuesday of the month (September to June), email for zoom link.
- **Ward 6 Public Schools Parent Organization (W6PSPO)** Email: m.godec@att.net or chpspo@gmail.com Meetings: Third Tuesday of every month
- **Ward 7 Education Council** Email: ward7ed@yahoo.com Meetings: First Thursday of each month at 6:30, email for zoom link.
- **Ward 8 Education Council** Email: ward8educationcouncil@gmail.com
- **Senior High Alliance of Parents, Principals and Educators (SHAPPE)** Email: dc_shappe@gmail.com Meetings: 4th Tuesday of each month on zoom
- **Public School Partnership Program – The Washington Lawyers’ Committee**
- **Media Partners:** We Act Radio/Education Townhall and https://educationdc.net/https://tio

**STAY TUNED for...**

- Work on Facility Master Plan due in December
- Work on DCPS Budget Template for 2022-2023

**“The Catchup”: Useful DC Education Videos and Links**

**Washington Lawyers Committee:** Discover how you can help close the resource gaps in DC public schools during our Pro Bono Goes to School event feat. a dynamic panel from @GeorgetownLaw, @AUWCL, @MikvaChallenge, @WUDL_Debate, & @WashLaw4CR. Register today! https://wclawyers.org/dcbpw21-211029/ #CelebrateProBono

Also


**Educationdc.net:** Jon Hale has written a book The Choice We Face; How Segregation, Race and Power have shaped Education’s Most Controversial Reform Movement. This edition of Educationdc.net includes a tape of a discussion between Jon Hale and Peter McPherson after a brief description.


http://www.c4dcpublicschools.org/