



# **An Education Recovery Plan for Washington, D.C.**

**Created by DC Educators with EmpowerEd**

## **Brief Overview**

[Read the Full Plan Here](#)

### **Immediate Needs**

- Closing the digital divide through one to one commitment, monitor DCPS implementation, more oversight of equity in charter sector. Partnerships with business. Complete full inventory of devices needed. Distribute hotspots for all families in need. Work with [Digital Equity in DC coalition](#).
- Continue meal and grocery distribution through summer

### **Transition to a “New Normal” (contingent on health guidance)**

- Approach to opening and guidelines for additional closures must be consistent across all schools and region
- Every school must have a full time nurse and plan for Covid- testing
- Return to school must focus on the whole child- not “make-up” of tested subjects alone but social studies to process this historic moment, arts and electives for therapy, intense social emotional support.
- Attendance not mandatory for students/teachers (especially in vulnerable groups) until vaccine widely available.
- Our full plan contains various options for new schedules that limit physical interaction, reduce class size, teacher case-loads and staggered times, using an extended day model for some, etc...
- Plan for future distance learning by compiling the best resources now
- Academic testing only for pulse on where students are in order to plan individual instruction- not for student, school or teacher accountability.
- We must prioritize educator mental health as educators support students and experience secondary trauma- add mental health days

### **Continuity of Care**

- Teacher “looping” should be considered in some fashion to give students closure from SY 19-20 where possible and draw on strong relationships in a difficult time- but should be decided at school level. [Survey data here](#).
- Teacher retention- DC already has [highest teacher turnover](#) in the country. After major crisis like Hurricane Katrina and the Great Recession [evidence](#)

[of major loss](#) of experienced teachers and teachers of color- we must take proactive steps. [We have solutions.](#)

- Principal/ School leader stability is essential to success and principals must be engaged in designing new school schedules. Models
- Professional Development- move to peer to peer teacher learning following [“floating PD” proposal](#) outline which helps build organic mentor relationships- opportunity to pilot/ move away from punitive evaluation system towards teacher-growth oriented system

### **Proposing An Education Recovery Act: Addressing Root Causes & Inequities**

- Budgets are tight, but this is precisely the time to ask more from those who are capable. Those who can want to give, the city must ask more of the wealthy to prevent deepening of inequities
- Stimulus bill for schools is critical- consider using “at-risk” definition proposed in CM Trayon White “Critical At-Risk” bill to provide extra funds to schools that need it most. DCPS should add additional SPED, ELL positions to CSM- these populations will need extra support immediately. Adjust budgets based on new formula for SY 20-21 stimulus.
- Child Care- there is a coming child care emergency with [evidence](#) many child care centers may not re-open. Child care must be back online before PK-12 and city should expedite planning for child care for educators.
- Social-Emotional Support- the city should pass a new appropriation to increase social worker, counselor and school psychologists support to all schools based on need- also focus on need for bilingual positions.
- Adult and Parent Education- the “adult education gap” revealed by this crisis demonstrates need for additional funding and systemic adult education. Study model such as [INEA in Mexico.](#)
- Invest in family outreach and engagement- home visits will be challenging but we need creative approaches to stay in touch with all families.

### **Collaborate and Act for Education Recovery**

1. Read the Full Plan here or at [www.weareempowered.org/recovery](http://www.weareempowered.org/recovery)
2. Web Conversation on the plan Wednesday April 29th 5 pm, on YouTube soon!
3. Add your ideas. Submit your feedback to [scott@weareempowered.org](mailto:scott@weareempowered.org)
4. [Contact elected officials](#) and advocate for the plan