



Greetings

DC Kids and Schools

September 15, 2025

As Mayor of Washington, DC, I am honored to join member organizations, partners, parents, and policymakers, as we celebrate today's kickoff of the *DC Kids and Schools* campaign.

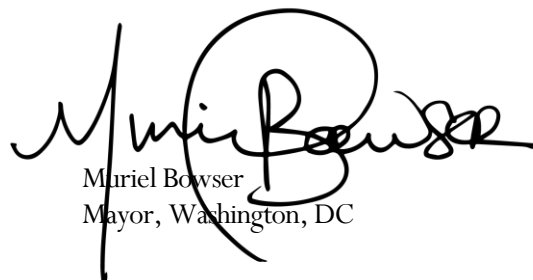
The *DC Kids and Schools* campaign, a national-facing coalition hosted by PAVE and led in partnership with a number of leading local education organizations, including DC Public Education Fund, Education Forward DC, CitySchools Collaborative and the DC Charter School Alliance, is committed to telling the story of DC's public education system and successes. And, this is a story worth telling—we have proven that urban school systems can improve and even outpace national trends.

Since the beginning of my Administration in 2015, I have prioritized the education of our students enrolled across the District's 250 DCPS and public charter schools. Our progress stems from historic investments in education over the past decade which have helped make Washington, DC the fastest-improving urban school district in the country. My Fiscal Year 2026 *Grow DC* Budget dedicates an additional \$2.8 billion to support DCPS and DC public charter school students, \$270 million to support pay raises for DCPS and charter school teachers, and \$2 billion for school modernizations.

Today, 82% of 3-year-olds and 95% of 4-year-olds are enrolled in early childhood education programs; we empowered parents to choose which school in DC is most aligned with the academic interests of their young scholar; and we hired and encouraged high-quality educators to ensure that our students feel challenged and supported. Reading and math scores continue to improve, and DC students are graduating with college credits and career certifications.

The horizon of our story is not limited to Washington, DC. This is why I am so excited about the *DC Kids and Schools* campaign. You are opening our doors, inviting advocates to come in and collaborate, and demonstrating the success of our educational model and its potential to scale what works. After all, when we share our best ideas and listen to others, children everywhere benefit. The future of our city—soon to be 51st state—and our country, depends on the quality of our education system and the opportunities we can create for our kids. I believe that every child, especially here in our nation's capital, deserves an excellent education and the opportunity to chart their own path to a bright future.

On behalf of the more than 700,000 residents of Washington, DC, my thanks go out to *DC Kids and Schools* and all who participated in today's event. I hope we can continue to learn from one another, challenge one another, and build together. Let's keep pushing!



Muriel Bowser
Mayor, Washington, DC

