

2020-21

STATE OF D.C. SCHOOLS

March 10, 2022 | 3:30 – 4:30 PM

This year's report examines how students, families, and schools navigated virtual learning during school year 2020-21, the first full academic year when schools operated under pandemic conditions. Both qualitative and quantitative data show that the 2020-21 school year was a year of uncertainty for school communities. The report also reviews early signs of challenges related to virtual learning and finds that these manifested differently across different ages: fewer students enrolled in pre-kindergarten grades, fewer alumni began post-secondary after high school graduation, and most elementary and middle school students experienced unfinished learning. A year of school during the pandemic also led to disproportionate impacts for some student groups.

The launch event for the report will open with remarks from a high school student followed by a panel discussion and an audience Q&A. The discussion will explore the different challenges that students, teachers, and families experienced over the last year. Importantly, it will focus on a look forward and how education leaders, schools, parents, and students think about recovery.

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Find the full report and summary online at dcpolicycenter.org/publications/state-of-dc-schools-20-21

AGENDA

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| 3:30PM | Welcome
<i>Yesim Sayin Taylor, Executive Director at the D.C. Policy Center</i> |
| 3:35PM | Opening remarks
<i>Skye-Ali Johnson, Student Representative to the D.C. State Board of Education</i> |
| 3:40PM | Presentation of findings
<i>Chelsea Coffin, Director of the Education Policy Initiative at the D.C. Policy Center</i> |
| 3:50PM | Panel discussion
<i>Denise Forte, Interim CEO at The Education Trust (moderator)</i>
<i>Paul Kihn, Deputy Mayor for Education</i>
<i>Mary Ann Stinson, Instructional Superintendent at DCPS</i>
<i>Pat Brantley, CEO of Friendship Public Charter Schools</i>
<i>Shaniola Arowolaju, PAVE Parent Policy Captain</i> |
| 4:15PM | Audience Q&A
<i>Julie Rubin, D.C. Policy Center</i> |

MEET THE REPORT AUTHORS

Chelsea Coffin
Director, Education Policy Initiative
D.C. Policy Center
 [@cfcoffin](https://twitter.com/cfcoffin)



Chelsea Coffin is the Director of the Education Policy Initiative at the D.C. Policy Center, where her research focuses on how schools connect to broader dynamics in the District of Columbia. Chelsea has also worked for D.C. Public Charter School Board, and the World Bank. Chelsea began her career in education as a secondary school teacher with the Peace Corps in Mozambique.

Julie Rubin
Senior Education Analyst
D.C. Policy Center



Julie Rubin is a Senior Education Analyst at the D.C. Policy Center's Education Policy Initiative. In this role, she conducts research and data analysis on topics such as the boundary review process, measuring early career outcomes for high school alumni, and enrollment shifts after the pandemic. Julie previously worked as an AmeriCorps VISTA member, at the American Federation of Teachers, in the Executive Office of Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer, and most recently as a research assistant at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor.

MEET TODAY'S SPEAKERS

Yesim Sayin Taylor
Executive Director
D.C. Policy Center

[@yesimsy](https://twitter.com/yesimsy)

Welcome



With over twenty years of public policy experience in the District of Columbia, Yesim is recognized by policymakers, advocates and the media as a source of reliable, balanced analyses on the District's economy and demography. Yesim's research interests include economic and fiscal policy, urban economic development, housing, and education. She is especially focused on how COVID-19 pandemic is changing regional and interregional economic interdependencies and what this means for urban policy. Before joining the D.C. Policy Center, Yesim worked at the District of Columbia Office of the Chief Financial Officer leading the team that scored the fiscal impact of all legislation the District considered.

Skye-Ali Johnson
Student Representative
D.C. State Board of Education

Opening remarks



Skye-Ali Johnson is a senior and student-leadership ambassador at Richard Wright Public Charter School for Journalism and Media Arts in Washington, DC. She has been lead anchor in the school NewsCast, producing weekly segments since 2018. Skye-Ali has completed multiple investigative writing projects and has been published in The Urban Health Media Project and Medshadow. She has co-hosted Raise DC and StriveTogether events, advocating on the behalf of youth for more affordable access to creative programs, and is active in other community work. Skye-Ali is a native Washingtonian and a passionate advocate for the people who reside in the lower income wards of Washington DC. She will be continuing to research and identify resources to assist members in her community and aspires to make an impact in multimedia journalism.

Denise Forte
Interim CEO
The Education Trust

[@dm_forte](https://twitter.com/dm_forte)

Moderator



Denise Forte (pronounced "fort") is the interim CEO at The Education Trust. With more than two decades of experience in the federal legislative and executive branches advancing progressive education and family policy, Denise brings strategic leadership to the organization's efforts to engage policymakers and diverse coalitions of advocates in demanding and securing equity-advancing policy change at the national and state levels. She also leads Ed Trust's legislative efforts and coordinates an organization-wide advocacy agenda and strategy.

Paul Kihn
Deputy Mayor for Education

[@DMEforDC](https://twitter.com/DMEforDC)

Panelist



Paul Kihn serves as the Deputy Mayor for Education in D.C. He previously served for three years as the Deputy Superintendent of the School District of Philadelphia. Prior to his work in Philadelphia, he supported district and charter turnaround efforts as a partner and a leader of the U.S. K12 Education Practice for the global consulting firm McKinsey & Company. Mr. Kihn is a former New York City public school English teacher and has also taught middle and high school English in Ireland and South Africa. In addition, Mr. Kihn has worked with adjudicated and out-of-school youth.

Mary Ann Stinson
Instructional Superintendent
DC Public Schools

[@dcpublicschools](https://twitter.com/dcpublicschools)

Panelist



Mary Ann Stinson began her career in the District of Columbia Public Schools in 2010, as the principal of Truesdell Education Campus. Currently, Ms. Stinson is the Instructional Superintendent for Cluster 2, in southeast DC. She holds a Master's in Administration and Supervision from Virginia Commonwealth University, is a member of the first DCPS Georgetown McDonough School of Business Executive Master's of Leadership Cohort and has since earned an Ed Specialist degree in Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Populations from The George Washington University. She is currently working on her doctorate in Early Literacy Leadership at American University. Prior to her work in DCPS, Ms. Stinson taught and was a school leader in Richmond Public Schools. She is also the very proud parent of three children, and one granddaughter.

Pat Brantley
Chief Executive Officer
Friendship Public Charter School

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Panelist



Patricia Brantley is the chief executive officer of Friendship Public Charter School. She is an education reformer, charter school advocate, and supporter of the right of all children to receive a high-quality education. Patricia became the CEO of Friendship PCS in 2016, after serving as COO for ten years, a role in which she engineered the acquisition and development of six public charter school campuses in Washington, D.C., four partner schools in Baltimore, MD, and a new charter school in Baton Rouge, LA. Previously, Patricia served in corporate and nonprofit positions, including founder of the Partnership for Academic Achievement; chief development officer and adviser at the National Council of Negro Women; and executive director of the Dance Institute of Washington. Patricia is chair of the Board of the D.C. Association of Chartered Public Schools, a board member of the Friends of Choice in Urban Education, a Broad Academy alumnus, and a graduate of Princeton University and noted as one of the top 20 African American women in education.

Shaniola Arowolaju
PAVE Parent Policy Captain

[@dcpave](https://twitter.com/dcpave)

Panelist



Shaniola Arowolaju is native Washingtonian and Ward 5 resident. She is a product of the DCPS system and graduate of Eastern SHS. Shani earned her Bachelor's Degree from the illustrious North Carolina A&T State University and is happily married with 3 beautiful school aged children who attend KIPP DC. She is a federal government employee and is very invested in ensuring all DC students receive a quality well rounded education. Mrs. Arowolaju is a proud member of KIPP DC's Parent Advisory Board, a member of the DCPCSB Parent & Alumni Leadership Council and a PAVE Parent Policy Captain & Ward 5 PLE Board member.

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