




2025

END OF YEAR REPORT



DC Ed FUND
★ ★ ★
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ABOUT DC PUBLIC EDUCATION FUND
The DC Public Education Fund shares DC Public Schools' vision that every student feels loved, challenged, and prepared to thrive in life and reach their full potential. The DC Public Education Fund catalyzes innovation and drives sustainability by connecting private investment to DCPS' most innovative solutions for students.

Friends and Supporters,

2025 was a year of real momentum for DC Public Schools — and your partnership made it possible. From **record-setting graduation rates** and **historic secondary gains** to a **surge in enrollment** that put DC at the top of all states, our system is showing what is possible when a city comes together around its public schools. Students are not only achieving at higher levels; more of them are choosing DCPS and staying on track to graduate prepared for what's next.

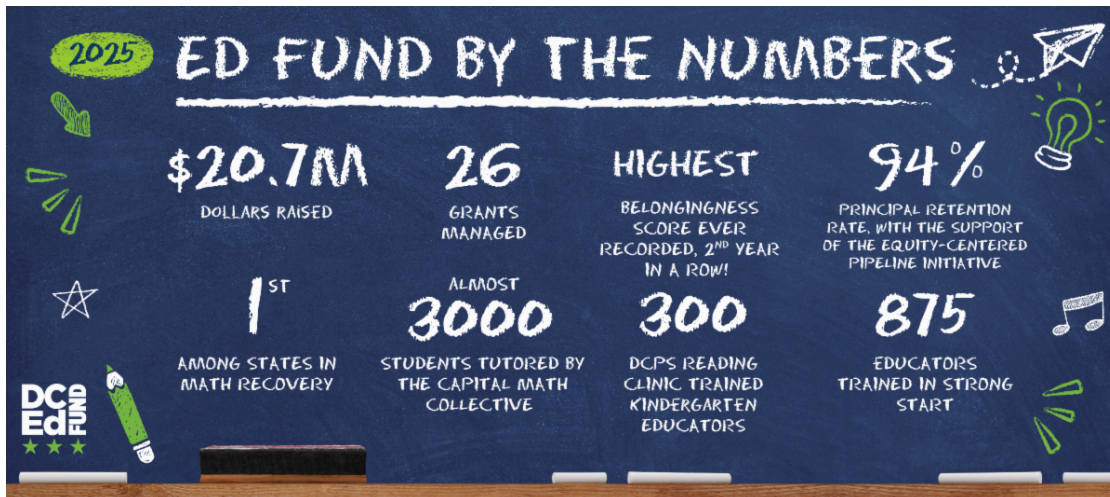
At the DC Ed Fund, we have been proud to **match this momentum with bold, targeted investment**. This year, we helped launch the **Capital Math Collective** and the new DCPS Math Center to accelerate math learning for thousands of students and build teacher expertise. **The historic citywide effort** is powered by an anonymous \$20 million commitment to math instruction. We also expanded the role of DCPS Reading Clinic so that **every kindergarten teacher receives training grounded in the science of reading**. Additionally, we continued investing in belonging and strong school climates — from supporting strategies that reduce chronic absenteeism to help schools deepen relationships and student engagement.

Looking ahead, DC is poised to use this momentum to go even further, especially in math, literacy, and postsecondary pathways. In 2026, we will **double down on the Capital Math Collective, strengthen early literacy and dual language learning, and expand innovative “earn and learn” opportunities** so more students graduate ready to thrive in college, career, and life. Thank you for standing with DC's students — together, with DCPS as our core partner, we are proud to play a role in advancing a system where **every young person is loved, challenged, and prepared for what comes next**.

With gratitude,



Jim Kline
Executive Director & President



2025 Program Highlights



Science of Reading, DCPS-Wide

DCPS is strengthening early literacy at scale by investing in **training all kindergarten teachers in the Science of Reading** through the DCPS Reading Clinic, **reaching more than 300 educators** across general education, special education, and multilingual learner classrooms. With districtwide professional development and ongoing coaching throughout the year, this work ensures DCPS meets the requirement that every kindergarten teacher is trained by the start of the 2026–27 school year. **Powered by a gift from Klingenstein Philanthropies** it lays the foundation to expand high-impact reading instruction to additional grade levels in the years ahead.

Investing in Dual Language Practices

As part of DCPS’s multi-year effort to expand professional learning for PK3–12 educators, the Language Learning team, in partnership with the Sullivan Family Charitable Foundation, sponsored **more than 40 educators** to attend La Cosecha, a **national dual language conference in New Mexico**. Participants explored **high-impact instructional strategies**, **connected with peers** from across the country, and **strengthened their commitment to bilingualism and biliteracy**. Educators are already bringing new practices back to their classrooms and sharing their learning across the District through professional development.



DC's Bold Math Moment

This year, [DC Ed Fund launched the Capital Math Collective](#), a bold, citywide effort to dramatically improve math outcomes for DC students alongside partners **DCPS, CitySchools Collaborative, and EmpowerK12**. By bringing together public schools and proven education partners, the initiative is designed to scale what works, from **stronger classroom instruction** to **targeted tutoring** and **family supports**, so more students build lasting math confidence and skills. With a focus on measurable results and long-term growth, the Collective is accelerating progress toward a clear goal: **making DC a national leader in student math achievement by 2030**.



Strong Start, Stronger Classrooms

To strengthen early learning from day one, DCPS launched the school year by **training every pre-K educator and paraprofessional in Strong Start**, a strategy focused on building predictable classroom routines, strengthening relationships, and creating supportive learning environments where young students can thrive. This year, **875 educators and leaders have received Strong Start training**. This major investment in consistent, high-quality practice is helping create **smoother transitions, stronger daily routines, and more supportive classrooms across the district**. DCPS also expanded access by offering a dedicated Strong Start session in Spanish for bilingual educators, ensuring strategies are shared and implemented equitably across classrooms and communities.

**STUDENT
BELONGING
& SAFETY**



Students Power Attendance Gains

H.D. Woodson High School [saw a major jump in student attendance](#) this year, including raising in-seat attendance on the Thursday before winter break **from 42.6 percent the prior year to 76 percent**, alongside encouraging academic gains for participating students such as **improved GPAs, recovered credits, and fewer failed courses**. This progress was driven by an **innovative, student-led approach through the DC+XQ initiative**, where student mentors formed an "Attendance Pep Squad" to strengthen peer connection, build school community, and encourage classmates to show up during key attendance drop-off periods.

PATHWAYS FOR POST-SECONDARY SUCCESS



Historic Student Milestones

DCPS students achieved historic milestones this year, including the **highest graduation rate in more than a decade at 77.6 percent** and a **ninth grade promotion rate of 90 percent**, helping more students stay on track toward earning a diploma. We are proud that investments in high school redesign, including our **partnership with the XQ Institute**, are contributing to this progress by strengthening student engagement and pathways to what's next.

DC also saw increased CTE enrollment, improved high school performance on CAPE standardized assessments, and the highest growth in public school enrollment nationwide, reflecting continued momentum in both academic achievement and career readiness.

Earn and Learn: Healthcare Pathways

DCPS is **expanding access to high-demand healthcare careers** through the Opportunity Academy Earn and Learn Program, preparing students to **pursue phlebotomy licensure** through coursework at UDC while still in high school. **Thanks to an investment from the Greater Washington Community Foundation**, 26 students completed the Career Kickstart course to build employability skills and qualify for the certification pathway, and students strengthened their readiness through a summer Phlebotomy Bootcamp that resulted in CPR certification. By **helping students earn industry-recognized credentials** and **early exposure to in-demand fields**, DCPS is creating clearer pathways to **strong wages** and **long-term economic mobility**.



Standing Ovation 2026

Later this month we will celebrate **Standing Ovation**, DCPS's annual celebration of **excellence in education**, we are proud to honor the educators and leaders whose commitment and talent **make a lasting difference for students and families** across the District. Standing Ovation is a powerful moment to celebrate the hard work, dedication, and care that **drive strong schools** and **brighter outcomes** for DC students. This year's honorees include:

STANDING OVATION



Outstanding Educator of the Year

Cara Marbury, *Beers Elementary School*

Educator Excellence Award Winners

Nicol Davis, *School-Within-School @ Goding*
Chad Harris, *Stanton Elementary School*
Lee James, *Eastern High School*
Dr. Shelina Warren, *Dunbar High School*

Outstanding School Leader of the Year

Dr. Grace Reid, *Barnard Elementary School*

School Leader Excellence Award Winners

Lucas Cooke, *MacFarland Middle School*
Eric Dabney, *Kimball Elementary School*
Marqus Holden, *Garnet-Patterson STAY*
Amanda Perz, *Wheatley Education Campus*

Outstanding Central Services Leader of the Year

Nina Harrison, *Office of Integrity*

Central Services Excellence Award Winners

Whitney Carrington, *Office of School Improvement & Supports*
Drue Docie, *Office of Teaching & Learning*
Andy Hai Ting, *Office of Fiscal Strategy*
Danielle Johnson, *Office of Teaching & Learning*

Excellence Award for School Improvement

Stuart-Hobson Middle School

Outstanding School Staff of the Year

Laura Kleinmann, *Oyster-Adams Bilingual School*

School Staff Excellence Award Winners

Asia Bernard, *Plummer Elementary School*
Kenneth Brown, *Ballou High School*
Niki Clark-Deal, *Randle Highlands Elementary School*
Jennifer Fitzpatrick, *Langdon Elementary School*

M. Shanita Burney Family Engagement Award

Garfield Elementary School
Thank you to the Flamboyant Foundation for sponsoring this award.



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