

## Supporting Students in High Schools in Excellence and Equity

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### **Reaffirm the value of the DCPS diploma for 2018 graduates**

DCPS will ensure that every 2018 graduate feels confident that the diploma they receive is a passport to college or career. To do this, DCPS will:

- **Conduct a comprehensive transcript review:** DCPS's Central Office will verify that every student who walks across the graduation stage will have earned that honor by reviewing transcripts for all 2018 graduates.
- **Support staff and students with current policies:** DCPS will ensure that schools have support systems and aligned accountability systems to follow attendance, grading, and credit recovery policies this semester.
- **This boils down to three things:** Training, oversight, and accountability.

### **Improve DCPS grading and credit recovery policies**

By School Year 2018-2019, DCPS will **improve policies on grading and credit recovery** and better clarify how attendance fits into both. Updated policies will be available in May 2018 after extensive engagement with staff, students and parents, and the broader education stakeholder community. This will include:

- Comprehensive training for principals, teachers, counselors, students, and parents beginning immediately and continuing as new staff are on-boarded and as new classes of students and parents come into the DCPS system;
- Oversight to ensure new staff are regularly trained on policies;
- Audit of grading practices at high schools to ensure grading practices match up with grading policy and accountability from DCPS Central Office and
- Implementation of a new student information technology system so school leaders, teachers, and families can effectively and efficiently receive and monitor student grades, attendance, and information.

### **Foster high expectations for our students**

Looking forward, DCPS will:

- **Create a profile of a graduate:** DCPS will define what it means to be a DCPS graduate, including the college and career milestones for success after graduation, expected from all students. This will include students meeting a college or career benchmark, such as qualifying scores on the SAT, AP exams, Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB), or ACCUPLACER tests, or earning a career certification. DCPS will also create a developmental course for students who do not reach the benchmark, to increase their likelihood of success after graduation.
- **Implement end-of-course assessments:** DCPS will begin to develop strong final exams for core courses (e.g. Algebra, Geometry, US History, etc.). This will be part of the student's grade, and DCPS will create support structures for students who do not earn a passing grade. The first end-of-course assessments will be in place by 2022.

### **Engage stakeholders**

DCPS will **engage stakeholders for input and feedback** on grading and credit recovery policies. This will include the establishment of a citywide community task force and student focus group, and engagement with DCPS school staff, the Washington Teachers' Union (WTU), and Council of School Officers (CSO).

DCPS will also **create an ombudsman-like function**, to ensure policies and procedures are being implemented with fidelity, and to follow-up on complaints related to compliance with the law and DCPS expectations.

**DCPS timeline**

