

**Remarks of Board Member Ashley Carter**  
**ESSA Vote**  
**March 22, 2017**

Today, I vote to approve the proposed DC state plan for the Every Student Succeeds Act put forth by the DC Office of State Superintendent of Education.

The Every Student Succeeds Act, which was passed with bipartisan support in 2015, aimed at getting accountability right, especially in areas where NCLB failed.

I have spent the first three months of my term on the board working tirelessly learning the plan, engaging in public discussion around the city, and submitting questions regarding specific areas of the plan related to ratings, testing weight, and climate.

After listening to public, school, and expert input and testimony over the past several months the original draft plan was revised in several areas. This revised plan, put forth today, effectively combines views of the entire city. Our city is diverse, so are our schools and collaboration is essential to move forward with one plan for the various schools in our city. I believe this plan does that.

Revisions to this plan may and will be made in the future as we work toward implementing it and collecting more data. However, I believe careful consideration was applied to the crafting of this plan and the current weight to our testing scores is appropriate at this time.

DC is on the forefront of this new act and submitting a plan for

the first review period allows our urban district to to effectively prepare in goal setting and strategic planning for its first implementation year.

I support the plan being forwarded along to the U.S Department of Education and look forward to its approval.