



OFFICE OF THE STUDENT ADVOCATE

District of Columbia Office of the Student Advocate supports students, parents, and families in their advocacy through parent education, one-on-one coaching, resource supports, and trainings in order to amplify the voices of families and communities in processes and decision-making; to provide avenues for access to resources and understanding systems; and to support power families and communities already possess.



202-741-4692



student.advocate@dc.gov

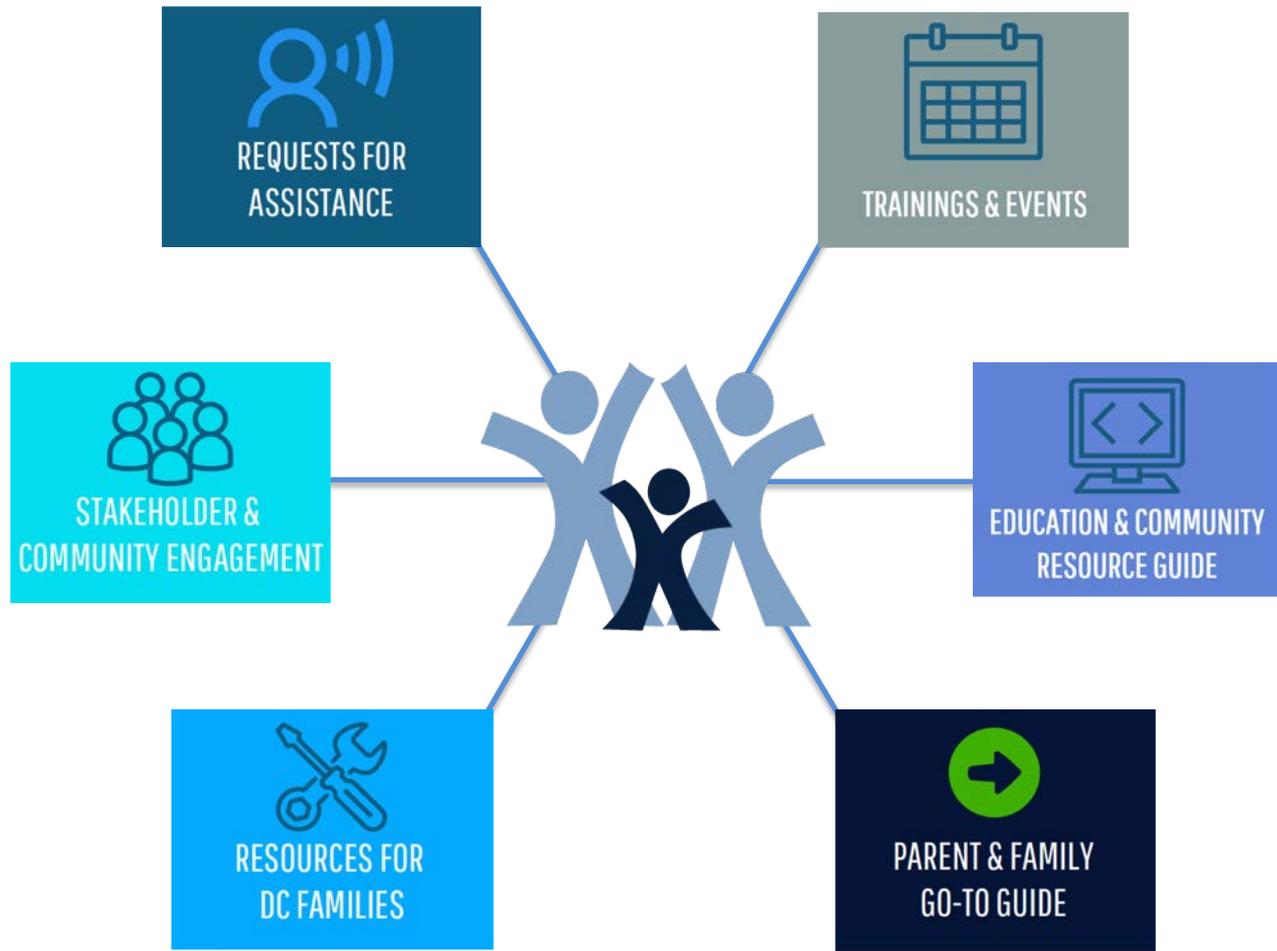


<http://studentadvocate.dc.gov>



@DC_Advocate

What We Do



We work in partnership to equalize the balance of power between families and schools by increasing family voice, access, and power in our system of public education. We achieve this goal by ensuring families are connected to resources and supports, informed of their rights, and understand how the system works.

Request for Assistance (RFA) Line



Our Request for Assistance line, a “311” system for public education, operates LIVE 9am – 5pm, Monday – Friday.

Reach us at [202.741.4692](tel:202.741.4692) for resources, referrals, and one-on-one coaching on all DC public education issues.

Education and Community Resource Guide

Our Online Education & Community Resource Guide is a continuously evolving resource that has more than 400 resource listings organized into 20 category areas. The first publicly available citywide initiative of its kind, the guide provides students, parents, families, and communities across all 8 wards with a roadmap to getting started in navigating the public education landscape in DC.



To access this guide, log on to studentadvocate.dc.gov.

Information and Advocacy Resources & Tools

We have a wealth of resources and interactive tools on a variety of topic areas available on our website, studentadvocate.dc.gov, including:

- Advocacy & Lobbying
- Attendance & Truancy
- Behavioral & Mental Health
- Bullying
- Effective Communication
- Enrollment
- Graduation Requirements
- Homelessness
- Parent Leadership
- Right to Know Ask Sheets
- Safe Passage
- Special Education
- Student Leadership
- Testing & Assessment
- Parent & Family Go-To Guide



Annual and Quarterly Reports

Yearly, our office submits an annual report summarizing the office's work during the previous academic year. We also include our vision for family engagement and equity and offer recommendations to address the city's top public education concerns. Our quarterly reports summarize office activities every 90 days.

To access our reports, log on to studentadvocate.dc.gov.

Trainings and Events



Our trainings and outreach efforts allow us to connect with families and communities around topic areas of interest.

Visit <https://sboe.dc.gov/page/training-events> for trainings & events, both past and upcoming.

SPED Workshop Series

1 Know Your Rights Discussion
Lead by our team at Office of the Student Advocate on everything you need to know for your student(s) about special education

2 Individualized Mini-Sessions
One-on-one mini-sessions with various partners who work in the special education space in DC who can help in answering your specific questions about the needs of your student(s)

3 Special Education Resources
Lists of special education resources for you and your student(s), including 504 plans v. IEPs, how to make a request for evaluation, annual reviews, and connections for organizational support

Special Education Workshop Series
OFFICE OF THE STUDENT ADVOCATE

in conjunction with Karen William, President of the DC State Board of Education (SBOE); Markus Batchelor, Ward 8 Representative for SBOE; OSSE's State Advisory Panel on Special Education; KIPP DC; PAVE; Ward 7 Education Council; East River Family Strengthening Collaborative; Ward 8 Education Council; and Far Southeast Family Strengthening Collaborative

RSVP here:
<https://bit.ly/2R0VQra>

Date: Monday, December 3, 2018
Time: 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.
Location: KIPP DC Benning Campus
4801 Benning Road SE
Washington, DC 20019

Dinner will be provided. Environment is child-friendly.

PAVE PARENTS AMPLIFYING VOICES IN EDUCATION
KIPP DC
SBOE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
EAST RIVER
WARD 7 EDUCATION COUNCIL
Ward 8 Education Council

Our presentation and webinar, “Transforming Emotions to Effective Advocacy: Understanding the Issues Surrounding Special Education Rights in DC”, are available on our website.

Other resources on available on our website include:

- Right to Know on SPED
- Right to Know on RTI
- SPED Acronyms, Abbreviations, and Definitions
- DC SPED resources
- Understanding the Difference between 504s and IEPs

Resources available at studentadvocate.dc.gov under [Information & Advocacy Resources and Tools](#) section.

Resources and Tools



RESOURCES FOR
DC FAMILIES



PARENT & FAMILY
GO-TO GUIDE

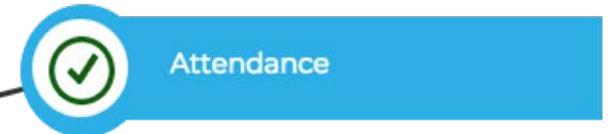
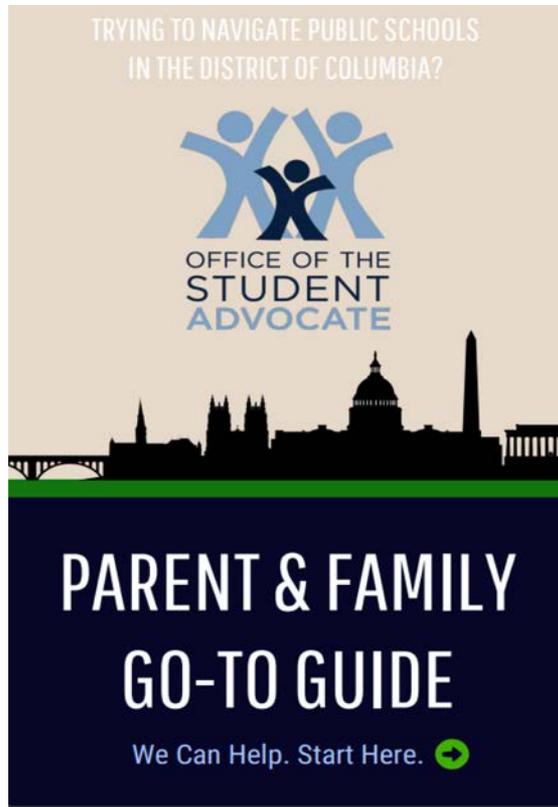
Our resources allow all stakeholders to better understand our public education system and a broad range of education-related topics.

Visit <https://sboe.dc.gov/page/advocacy>
to access our resources and tools.

Parent & Family Go-To Guide

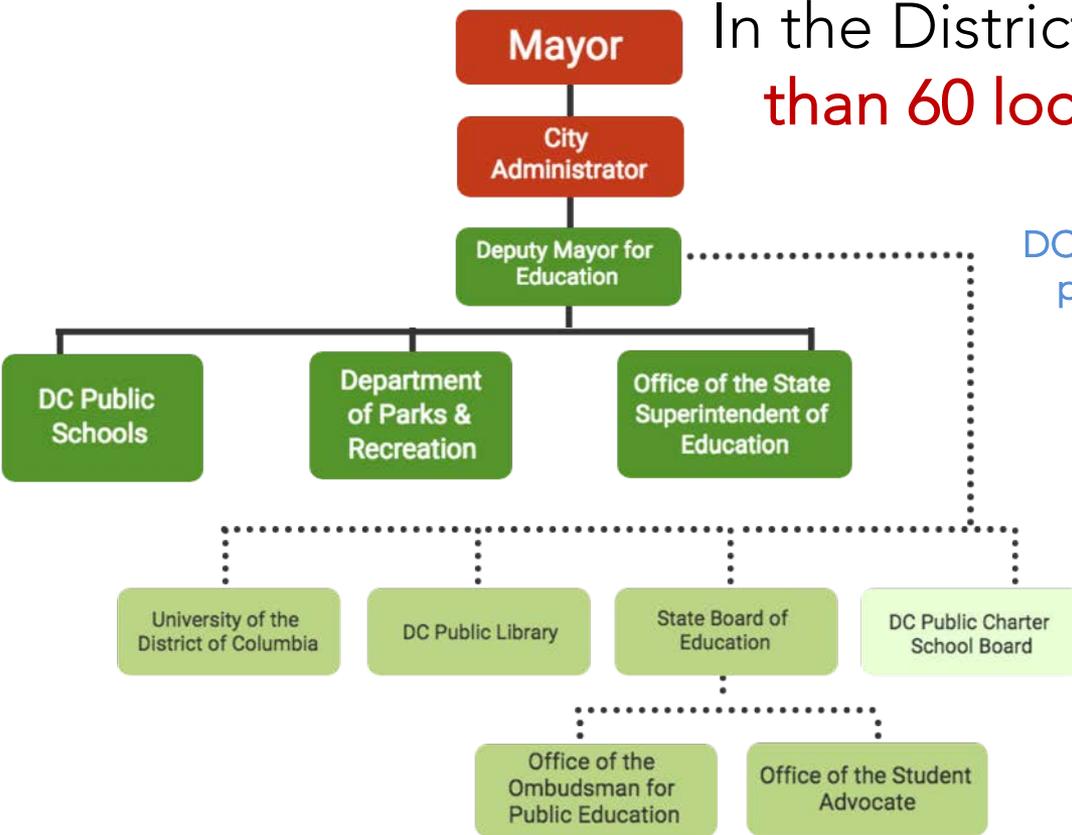
Our Go-To Guide includes some information and resources we offer on our website in one handy document.

Topics include:



Available at studentadvocate.dc.gov
under the [Information & Advocacy Resources and Tools](#) section.

Understanding Public Education Governance



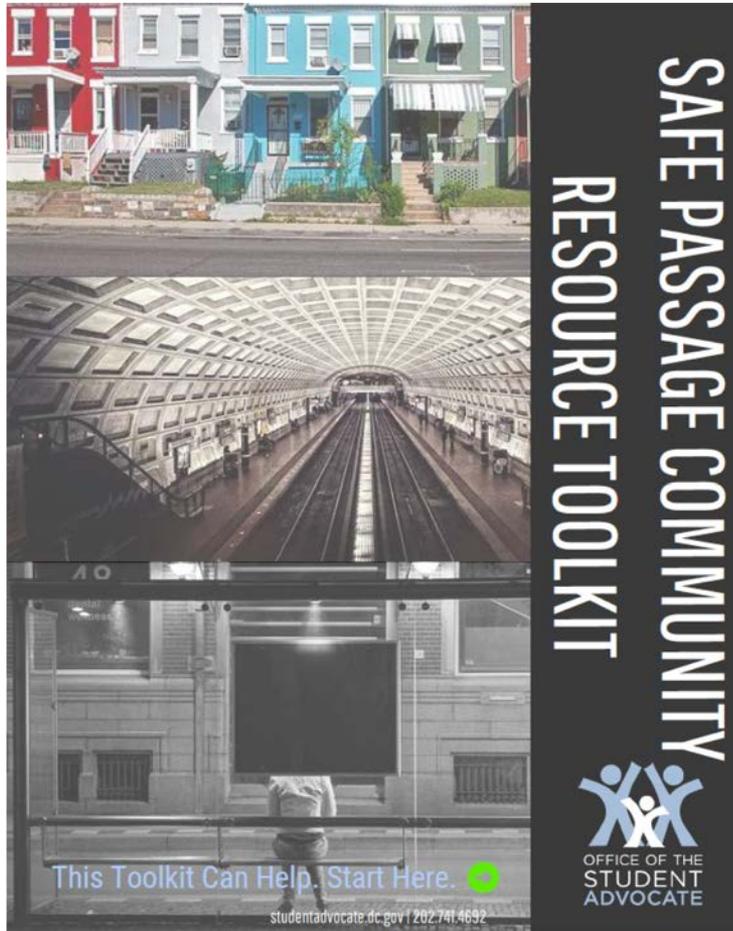
In the District of Columbia, we have **more than 60 local education agencies (LEAs) or individual school districts.**

DC Public Schools (DCPS) and each of the individual public charter school networks are school districts.

This structure alone, and a family's ability to navigate it, can be a barrier. To support families in this journey, we have created a very detailed resource to reduce confusion and increase awareness and access.

For more information about the structure of public education in DC, visit studentadvocate.dc.gov and click on the **Information & Advocacy Resources and Tools** tab.

Updated Safe Passage Toolkit



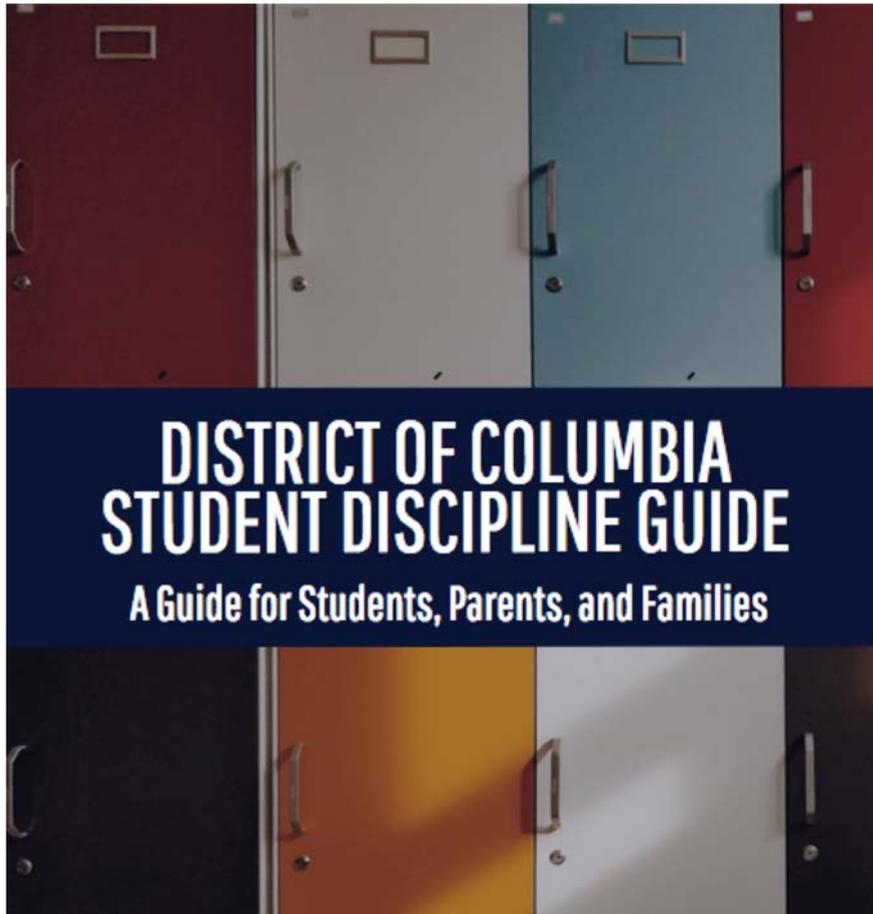
Our Safe Passage Resource Toolkit was designed to create and sustain the safe passage of our students and communities based on the “6 E’s” from National Safe Routes to School:

1. Education
2. Encouragement
3. Engineering
4. Enforcement
5. Evaluation
6. Equity

This toolkit also includes District and regional resources and contacts that support safe passage efforts.

The toolkit is available on our website at studentadvocate.dc.gov under *Information & Advocacy Resources and Tools*.

Discipline Resource



In 2018 the Council of the District of Columbia passed the Student Fair Access to School Amendment Act. The law makes it easier for students and families to move forward after an incident. Families often feel alone and overwhelmed when figuring out how to move forward after the school makes a discipline decision for their student. All students and families should know their rights whether or not they seek to challenge a disciplinary decision

The guide explains new rules for school discipline that all public schools must follow under DC law.

The guide, created in partnership with The Every Student, Every Day Coalition, will be posted to our website under [Information & Advocacy Resources and Tools](#).

Equitable Family Engagement

Equitable Family Engagement in Policy

How to Better Serve Students by Including Family Voice in Policy Making

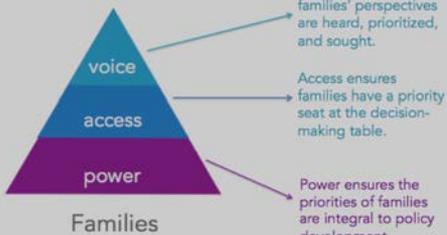
Office of the Student Advocate

Faith Gibson Hubbard, Chief Student Advocate
Dan Davis, Student Advocate
Tiffany Wilson, Program Associate

Community Schools National Forum 2018 (Baltimore, Maryland)

In May 2018 we shared our work regarding equitable family engagement at the Community Schools National Forum in Baltimore, MD. In our workshop, we were able to highlight the need for family partnership by conducting a root cause analysis with our 50 workshop participants in order to connect the lack of voice, access, and power to systemic disparities.

Defining and Supporting Equity



Voice ensures that families' perspectives are heard, prioritized, and sought.

Access ensures families have a priority seat at the decision-making table.

Power ensures the priorities of families are integral to policy development.

Family Engagement: What It *Should* Be

"Gaps in educational opportunity and achievement will only be remedied when...parents, families, and communities are driving decision-making."
- Every Student Succeeds Act summary by the Leadership Conference Education Fund



Espin, J.J. (2008). Conceptualizing and Defining Family Involvement for Research: Setting New Directions. PowerPoint Slides. Retrieved from <http://www.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/ED508697/Leadership.pdf>

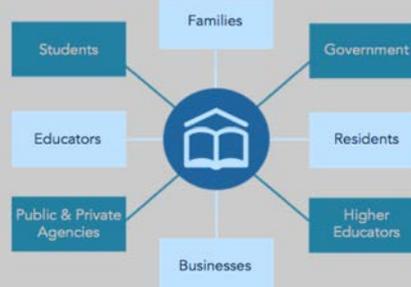
In December 2018, our office planned and brought a panel of local family engagement experts to testify on family engagement at the DC State Board of Education public hearing.

Our office is continuing our work to move forward the conversation of designing a citywide, and school level, family engagement framework. Authentic engagement of families and communities should be a mandatory part of the policy process.

Policy Issue: _____

Stakeholders	Characteristics			
	What has been their involvement in the issue?	What is their stance on the issue?	What type of power/influence do they hold?	How does this issue impact them?
Stakeholder Group #1				
Stakeholder Group #2				
Stakeholder Group #3				
Stakeholder Group #4				

Education Stakeholders



Citywide Bullying Workshop

In addition to hosting our bullying workshop in February, we've added bullying resources to our website:

- Bullying Quicksheet
- Bullying Stats
- OHR's Know Your Policy Portal

A recording done with workshop participants is now available on our website under [Information & Advocacy Resources and Tools](#).



Parent & Student Leadership

In order to make our system of public education in the District a more effective, responsive, and equitable system for all students, the inclusion of the voices of students and families in the process of decision-making in public education and planning is essential.



Resources available at studentadvocate.dc.gov click on [Information & Advocacy Resources and Tools](#).

Parent & Student Advisory Committee
Apply NOW at <https://sboe.dc.gov/page/parent-student-advisory-committee>.

1 Who Do We Want?
DC Public Schools and public charter schools parents and students

2 Why Do We Want You?
This committee's purpose is to provide an outlet for parents and students to assist the Office of the Student Advocate in better serving families throughout DC and to foster conversations and uncover solutions about the issues all stakeholders face within DC's public education landscape.

3 When Do We Want You?
Meetings would be held every other month.

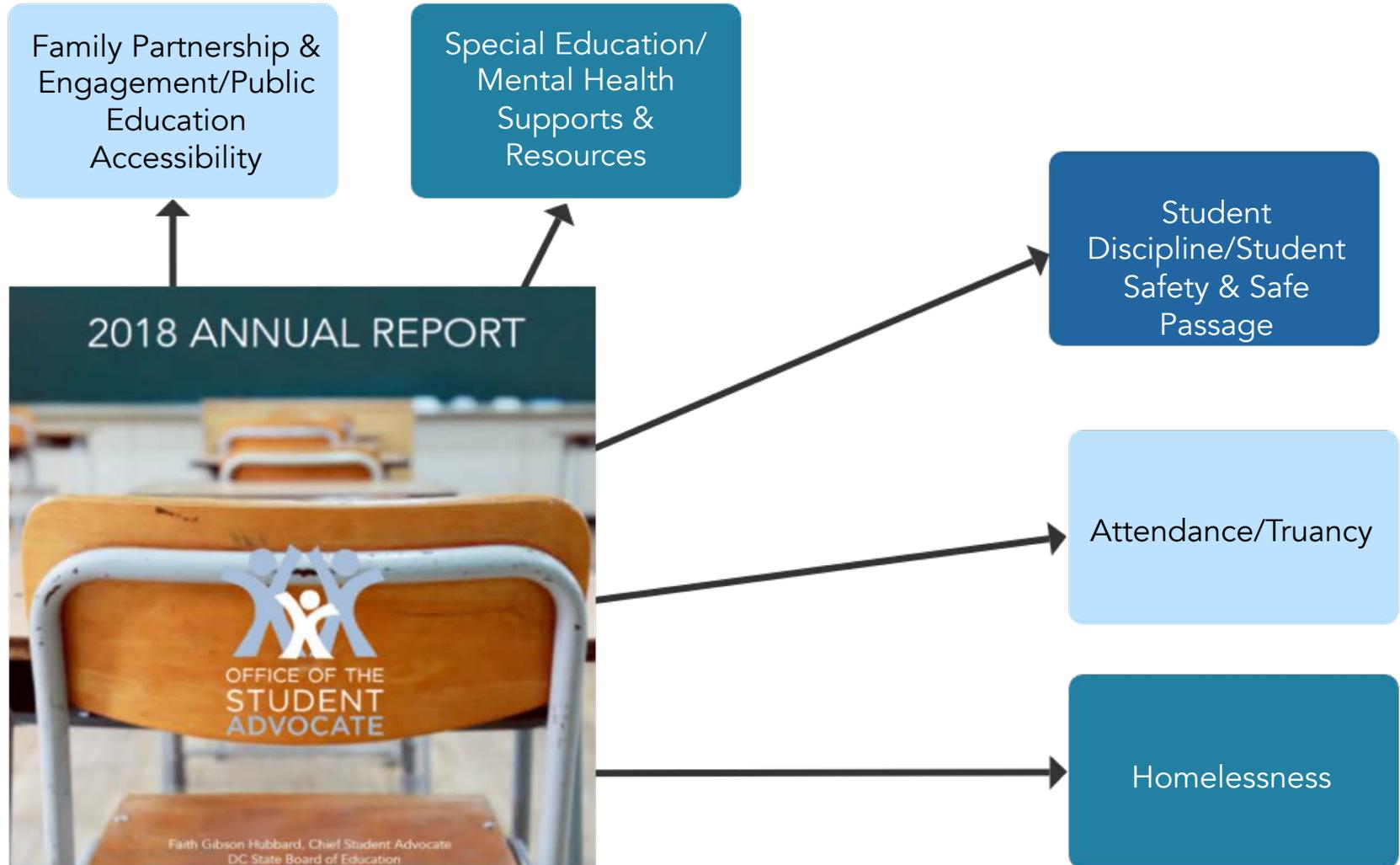
4 Where Do We Want Members From?
We are looking for 1 parent and 1 student from each ward, as well as an additional parent and student representative for Wards 7 & 8.

5 What Do We Want?
We want you to join The Office of the Student Advocate Parent & Student Advisory Committee!

The infographic is a vertical grid of five colored boxes (1-5) with icons and text. Box 1 (light blue) shows hands holding a globe. Box 2 (green) shows a head with a question mark. Box 3 (blue) shows a calendar. Box 4 (light blue) shows a location pin. Box 5 (green) shows an open book. Arrows connect the boxes in a clockwise cycle.

DC students and parents can apply now at studentadvocate.dc.gov!

2018 Annual Report Recommendations



<https://sboe.dc.gov/page/reports-and-official-testimony>

Let us help you with
navigating public
schools in the
District of
Columbia...



Call us at [202.741.4692](tel:202.741.4692)
Check out all of our resources online at
studentadvocate.dc.gov.