

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.



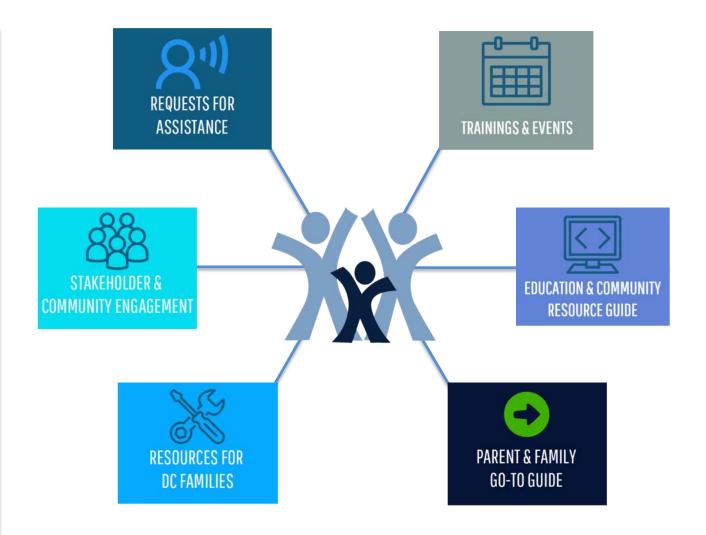


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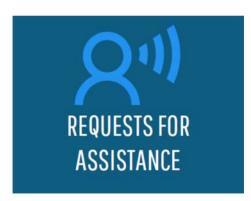
What We



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 for resources, referrals, and oneon-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.



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 Discipline
- 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.

Vents Frainings



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.



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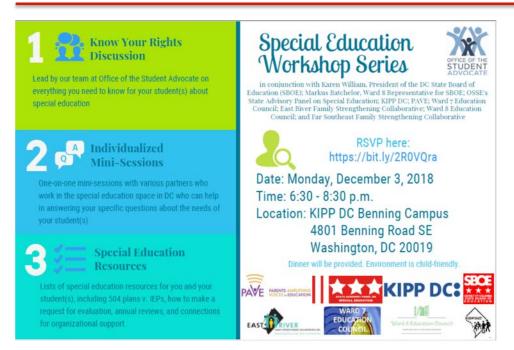


Our resources allow all stakeholders to better understand our public education system and a broad range of education-related topics.

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



SPED Workshop Series



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



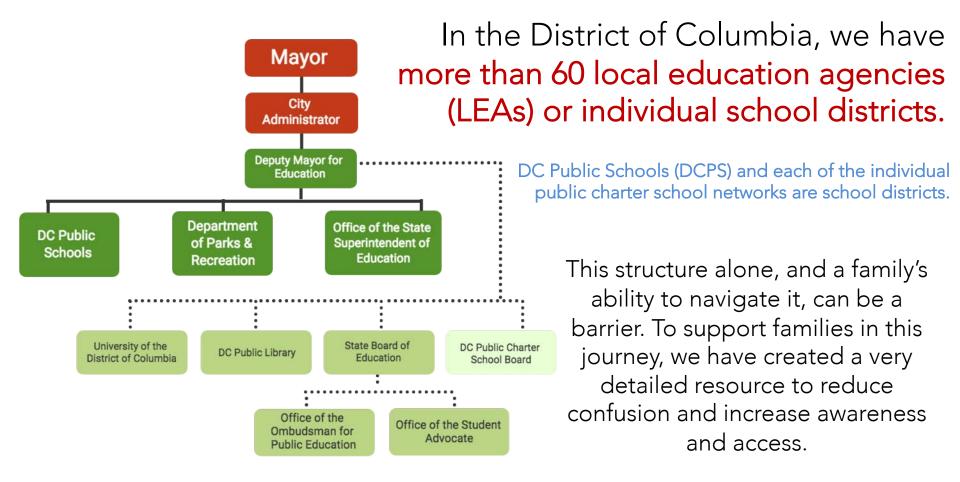
Parent & Family Go-To Guide

Our Go-To Guide includes some information Public Education in DC and resources we offer on our website in one handy document. Achievement Topics include: Behavior Attendance **PARENT & FAMILY** Special Education **GO-TO GUIDE** We Can Help. Start Here. Additional Resources



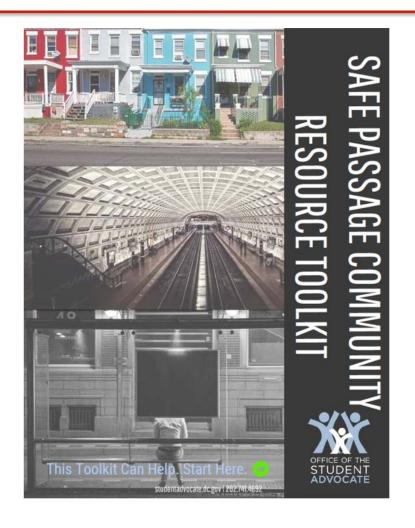
Available in print and online in English and Spanish at studentadvocate.dc.gov under the Information & Advocacy Resources and Tools section.

Understanding Public Education Governance





Updated Safe Passage Toolkit



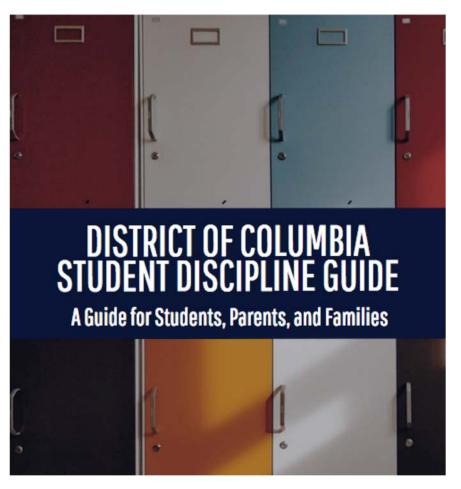
Our Safe Passage Resource Toolkit was designed to create and sustain the safe passage of our students and communities based on the "6 E's" from National Safe Routes to School:

- 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.



DC Student Discipline Guide

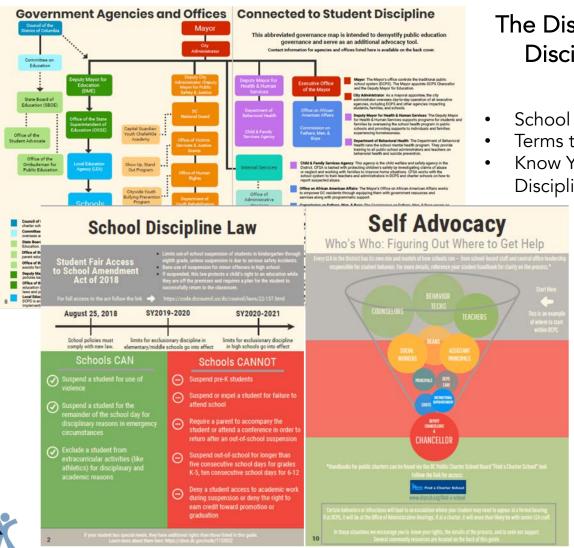


In 2018 the Council of the District of Columbia passed the *Student Fair Access* to *School Amendment Act*. In response, The Office of the Student Advocate created and released the District of Columbia Student Discipline Guide. The guide is a helpful resource created for students, families, and school staff that explains new rules that all public schools must follow under DC law.

Developed in partnership with the Every Student, Every Day (ESED) Coalition and the Office of the Ombudsman for Public Education, the guide helps students and families understand their rights and provides a roadmap for advocacy around student discipline.



DC Student Discipline Guide



The District of Columbia Student Discipline Guide covers the following topics:

- School Discipline Law
- Terms to Know: Uniform Legal Definitions
- Know Your Rights: Limits on Duration of Disciplinary Removals
 - Know Your Rights: Student Exclusion Protections
 - Know Your Rights: Access to Education During Exclusion
 - Alternative Disciplinary Responses
 - Government Agencies & Offices Connected to Student Discipline
 - Self-Advocacy
 - Conversation Starters:
 Questions to Ask
 - Terms to Know: General Terms
 - Numbers to Know



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.



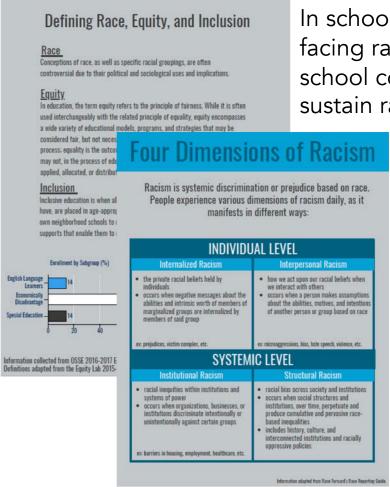
Resources available at studentadvocate.dc.gov click on Information & Advocacy Resources and Tools.



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

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Race and Equity Work



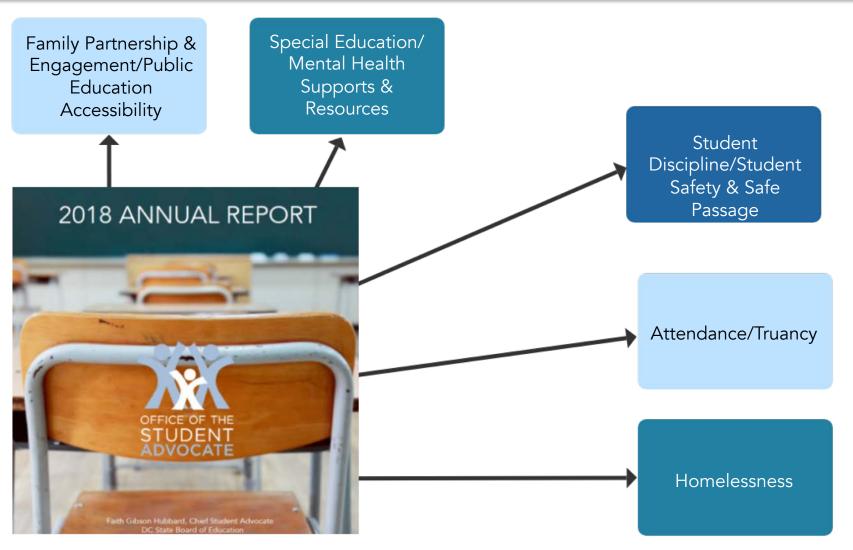
In school year 2018-19, we're working on a school-facing race, equity, inclusion toolkit that would provide school communities with a framework to create and sustain race, equity, and inclusion training in schools.

The toolkit will provide resources for school leaders to discuss issues of educational inequities with their school community, along with strategies for reaching out to neighbors and community members to collaboratively make our schools more equitable and just spaces.

This work is a response to inequitable systems, which are a byproduct of a nation and city founded on white supremacy and the oppression of people of color. That shows up in the work that we do daily and regularly comes up as the undercurrent of conversations we have with both families and schools.



2018 Annual Report Recommendations





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

District of Columbia...



Call us at 202.741.4692
Check out all of our resources online at studentadvocate.dc.gov.