



High-Quality Public School Choice

We believe that every parent has the right to select among an array of free public-school options, including traditional district schools, non-profit high-quality public charter schools, magnet schools, and career academies that best fit the educational needs of their students.

For affluent families – with the necessary resources and influence – high-quality public school choice already exists. We focus on dismantling racist redlining practices and opportunity hoarding by ensuring low-income families and families of color have high-quality educational opportunities throughout Washington, D.C.

We have successfully advocated for:

An equitable My School DC lottery.

Problem: Families of students designated as "at-risk" who apply to the My School DC lottery to enroll in the public school of their choice are too often placed on a waitlist. ("At-risk" students are defined as those who are homeless, in the city's foster care system, receiving benefits like TANF and SNAP, or high school students who are a year above the expected age for the grade they're in.)

Policy Solution: In 2020, the D.C. Council [passed into law](#) a policy that would allow students designated as "at-risk" to have a greater opportunity to attend a public charter school of their choice beginning in the school year 2022-2023.

Better public charter school facilities.

Problem: Public charter schools are not part of the D.C. government, so they cannot obtain funding from the District's capital budget. Therefore, financial support is needed to ensure public charter school students have safe, educationally appropriate buildings.

Policy Solution: The D.C. Council increased the public charter facilities allowance to 3.1% beginning in FY2023 to reflect the average growth in the cost of constructing school buildings to ensure every student has a safe learning environment.



To join us in advocating for high-quality public school choice, please contact us at dferdc@dferdc.org.