



Teacher Quality & Preparation

Teachers are the backbone of a high-quality public school education. Because they are the number one in-school influence on student academic achievement, we support policies that: allow the District to recruit, prepare, and retain highly effective educators, particularly educators of color, within their chosen fields; ensure robust compensation and fair evaluation; adopt culturally responsive standards and instructional materials; and support incentives for educators to teach in schools serving historically underserved students.

We have successfully advocated for:

Diverse teacher pipeline development.

Problem: Unlike many other states, Washington, DC does not have its own "grow your own" program to ensure that D.C. residents can enter the teaching workforce.

Policy Solution: The D.C. Council passed into law the Budget Support Act of 2021, which included funding for a program at the University of the District of Columbia that would provide dual enrollment opportunities for students to become educators in D.C. We believe that the District should continue investing in diverse teacher pathways.

Free structured literacy training for educators.

Problem: 70% of D.C. students were not proficient in reading in fourth grade, according to the 2019 National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) exam. The District must ensure all students read at grade level by third grade regardless of where in the city they live, what school they attend, and their ability or language-learning status. Policymakers must demand a citywide literacy intervention based on the science of reading — a decades-long, interdisciplinary, and proven body of knowledge that provides a deeper understanding of how we learn to read.

Policy Solution: The D.C. Council passed into law the Budget Support Act of 2022, which included funding for structured literacy training for K-5 D.C. Public School teachers, a \$2,000 stipend for those who complete the training, and a task force to study expanding the training to public charter schools.

Support for educators and school staff to purchase their own residence in D.C.

Problem: Everyone knows that it is expensive to live in Washington, D.C. The District government must help make our beautiful city a more attractive place for educators and school staff to live and work.

Solution: The D.C. Council passed into law the Budget Support Act of 2022, which included funding for the inclusion of charter and traditional public school educators in the District's Employer-Assisted Housing first responders grant program so they can be provided support to purchase a home in Washington, D.C.

**To join us in advocating for teacher quality & prep.,
please contact us at dferdc@dferdc.org**

