

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA



March 9, 2012

Dear District of Columbia Citizens:

I am pleased to share with you [*Quality Schools: Every Child, Every School, Every Neighborhood*](#). This valuable report, prepared by an independent research organization, provides detailed quantitative information about neighborhoods in the city where we are not providing adequate high-quality public education opportunities. With this initial study, we now know precisely where we must focus our efforts and can work in partnership to build upon the findings and recommendations presented.

All parents want and deserve quality schools for their children. Our goal is to ensure that children across the city have access to high-quality education opportunities in their neighborhood, while maintaining and supporting the diversity of our District Schools.

To make progress towards this goal, community partnership and input are vital. Without wide-ranging support and community buy-in, the systemic change necessary for our children is impossible. The first step is for our education team, including the Deputy Mayor for Education, DC Public Schools (DCPS), the Public Charter School Board (PCSB), and members of the State Board of Education, to meet with community stakeholders to review the data; understand the unique and neighborhood-specific needs, values, and priorities; and consider options that will allow us to expand more high-quality education options in targeted areas.

This is just the first step in the process. We will not make any final decisions about the future of our schools until we have had a thorough conversation with the community and conducted a comprehensive review of the solutions available to us.

We recognize that an undertaking of this magnitude requires the greatest possible collaboration between all stakeholders in the District. We ask for your participation and input in this historic effort, and we look forward to partnering with you in the months to come.

Best,


Vincent C. Gray
Mayor