



OFFICE OF THE  
**STUDENT  
ADVOCATE**

*Be Informed. Be Connected. Be Empowered.*

## Quarter 1 Report



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@DC\_Advocate

# Office of the Student Advocate

## Our Mission

We guide and support students, parents, families, and community members in navigating the public school system in DC.

Our mission is to empower DC residents to achieve equal access to public education through advocacy, outreach, and information services.

We provide step-by-step assistance for students, parents, families, and community members to be informed, be connected, and be empowered.

### **BE INFORMED**

- ✓ School enrollment process
- ✓ Student/parent policies and rights

### **BE CONNECTED**

- ✓ Community organization/government agency referrals and resources
- ✓ Parent/student organization development assistance and support

### **BE EMPOWERED**

- ✓ Self-advocacy and leadership training
- ✓ One-on-one coaching and advocacy assistance

...and, our office can help with many other issues that impact student learning, parent/community engagement, and more.

# How we support the community

- Amplify and incorporate community voice at the individual, stakeholder, and policy level.
- Partner with stakeholders to bring attention to issues that affect the community.
- Train and support community members to be more informed of their rights and to be more effective advocates.

# The Personal Impact

*“The Student Advocate’s office was instrumental in helping our family promptly identify the resources and support that we needed... This office is by far one of the best uses of my DC tax dollars!”*

*-DC Parent*

*“Ms. Gibson Hubbard knows DCPS. She also knows how to best assist families who need help in resolving public school problems, but lack allies within the system. Before she advocated for us, parents without experience in DC public schools, we felt alone in our battle with a faceless seeming bureaucracy, a system wedded to one-size-fits-all solutions. We also felt unwelcome at our neighborhood school and pessimistic about our prospects of ironing out an agreement with public education officials. But with the Chief Student Advocate's encouragement, we became effective advocates for ourselves.”*

*-DC Parent*

# Education & Community Resource Guide

The **first city-wide online initiative** of its kind that will be relevant and useful for students, parents, families, and communities across all 8 wards.

This resource guide is organized **by 30 popular issue categories and provides over 200 materials tailored to relevant interests or issues.**



## Education & Community Resource Guide



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## Education & Community Resource Guide November 2015

The Office of the Student Advocate is excited to present to the public its Education and Community Resource Guide. This guide has been prepared by our office in order to highlight organizations and government agencies in the sphere of public education that provide critical and much needed service to residents across the District of Columbia. It is our hope that this guide can continue our office's important work in guiding students, parents, families, and community members to important resources and tools across DC as they navigate the public education system.

### Who We Are

The Office of the Student Advocate (OSA) partners with students, parents, families, and community members for step-by-step guidance and support to Be Informed, to Be Connected, and to Be Empowered within the public schools system in the District of Columbia. Established in 2013 through the Parent and Student Empowerment Act, OSA is an independent office housed within the District of Columbia State Board of Education.

For more about the Office of the Student Advocate, please visit us on the web, [www.sboe.dc.gov/studentadvocate](http://www.sboe.dc.gov/studentadvocate), or on Twitter.



## Education & Community Resource Guide



### Community Engagement

Organization	Description	Website	Contact Information
Anacostia Community Outreach Center	ACOC provides an array of education, training and workforce development, and crisis intervention opportunities to economically disenfranchised and underserved children, youth, adults, and families living in Washington DC's most economically and socially depressed communities with regards to income, unemployment, and educational attainment (Targeted: Wards 5, 7, & 8).	<a href="http://www.anacostiaoutreach.org/">http://www.anacostiaoutreach.org/</a>	202-889-5607
Catholic Charities	Catholic Charities assists individuals and families in need, especially those who are most vulnerable. We believe in helping people develop the skills and strength to move from crisis or isolation to stability and growth.	<a href="http://www.catholiccharitiesdc.org/">http://www.catholiccharitiesdc.org/</a>	202-772-4300
Center for Child Protection and Family Support	A non-profit social service agency that provides services and programs directly to children and families and also provides professional training on various child welfare issues.	<a href="http://centerchildprotection.org">http://centerchildprotection.org</a>	Center for Child Protection and Family Support
Coalition for DC Public Schools & Communities	The Coalition for Public Schools & Communities is committed to excellent public education opportunities for all children in our city. Our members are a diverse group of activists – Ward-level education councils, school organizations and other groups – who share a common goal.	<a href="http://www.c4dcpublicschools.org/">www.c4dcpublicschools.org/</a>	c4dcpublicschools@gmail.com
Collaborative Solutions for Communities	Our mission is to build strong sustainable families and neighborhoods through family support services, training, advocacy, community capacity building, and economic development. Our vision is to empower urban neighborhoods to become environments where families and youth flourish.	<a href="http://wearecsc.org/">http://wearecsc.org/</a>	202-518-6737
Communities in Schools DC (Nation's Capital)	Communities In Schools is the largest, most effective dropout prevention organization dedicated to keeping kids in school and helping them to succeed.	<a href="http://cisinationscapital.org">http://cisinationscapital.org</a>	202-333-2277 or 202-563-5788
Critical Exposure	Critical Exposure trains youth to use photography and advocacy to make real change in their schools and communities. We're creating a new generation of civic leaders who have: the tools to express themselves, the creativity to imagine new solutions to old problems, the belief that youth have the right and ability to fight for those solutions, and the skills to hold communities and public officials accountable.	<a href="http://criticalexposure.org">http://criticalexposure.org</a>	202-745-3745 ext. 20
DC Alliance for Youth Advocates	The DC Alliance of Youth Advocates (DCAYA) is a coalition of youth-engaged organizations, youth and concerned residents formed to ensure that all children and	<a href="http://www.dc-aya.org/">http://www.dc-aya.org/</a>	202-587-0616

# What we're up to...

- **Special Education Panel Discussions and Workshops:**

This first panel discussion was a “Know Your Rights” special education discussion, which included panelists from the Children’s Law Center, Advocates for Justice and Education, the Office of the Ombudsman for Public Education, Family Voices of DC, and a parent advocate. The first panel discussion was held on Monday, November 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm at the William O. Lockridge Library in Ward 8. This panel was the first of a series of panel discussions focused on a variety of special education topics.

- **Enrollment: Navigating the Enrollment Process:**

I am partnering with DCPCSB, DCPS, DC School Reform Now, and My School DC to do a series of parent-focused events that help families navigate the school enrollment and selection process.

- **Webinar-parent testimonies:**

I will create webinars to help raise and address common questions that need answers across the board. Like an online report card, we want to make school by school information accessible so that parents have all information about what the school provides that is relevant to their children’s life as well as their life. This includes needs such as after school care, transportation, special education, etc.

# What we're up to...

- **Tip Sheets- How to find the right school for your child:**

Easy to follow manuals that simplify the steps for: 1) effective communication (pre-conflict and during conflict) and 2) Telling Your Story - this is useful for speaking to a teacher at your child's school or for testifying before the DC Council.

- **Volunteer Advocate Program:**

In the planning and partnership stages.



# Questions?