

MAYOR'S EDUCATION REFORM



"We have a crisis on our hands. Over the past two decades, study after study has spelled out the same problems and made nearly the same recommendations. My proposal changes one critical piece of the puzzle – increased accountability and action. I am asking for that responsibility to be placed squarely on my shoulders." -- Mayor Adrian M. Fenty

Mayor Fenty's education reform plan will:

- **Streamline responsibility.** The schools will become a cabinet-level agency subordinate to the Mayor. A Chancellor, appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by the Council, will be in charge of day-to-day operations. Decision-making authority will rest with the Mayor and Chancellor. A new Department of Education will coordinate education initiatives from pre-Kindergarten all the way through the University of the District of Columbia, including all adult education programs.
- **Empower parents.** The Office of the Ombudsman for Public Education will act as a customer service department for parents with concerns about the schools. The Ombudsman will track complaints so systemic problems can be identified and corrected.
- **Renovate schools faster.** A new facilities department will take responsibility for renovations away from those in charge of educating children, and get the job done faster.
- **Control spending.** The Mayor will develop the budget for the schools and submit it to the Council for approval, as with other District Government agencies.
- **Consolidate functions.** The State Education Office will assume control of all state-level education functions, including authority for federal education grants management and education standards and evaluation. These functions are now spread among various agencies and the Superintendent. The proposal will end conflicts of interest and bring the District in line with other states, as well as allow the District of Columbia Public Schools to focus on its core mission of educating students. It creates a state entity that is neutral and holds all schools accountable for performance.
- **Maintain an elected Board of Education.** The State Board of Education, replacing the existing Board of Education, will oversee state-level decisions for education in the District. It will approve state education standards and the District's accountability plan under the federal No Child Left Behind law. The Board will become an all-elected body in 2009, per the current plan.
- **Put the pieces together.** The Interagency Collaboration and Services Integration Commission will bring together, for the first time, the heads of all DC Government agencies that affect the lives of children. The group will focus on issues affecting student achievement that arise outside of the classroom. The Mayor and Council Chairman will co-chair the commission.

Government of the District of Columbia
Adrian M. Fenty, Mayor

