



DCPS Partnerships

DCPS.Partnerships@k12.dc.gov

DCPS Partnerships Newsletter

June 2025

Dear DC Public Schools (DCPS) Partners,

Congratulations on another successful school year! The last few weeks of school are always a busy, but exciting time for us all. This month, DCPS celebrated more than 2700 graduates. Congratulations to our students, schools, and families on this incredible achievement! Check out [this great video highlight](#) of some of the wonderful celebrations across the city.

In this month's newsletter, please find the following key features:

- Save the Date: Policy Palooza
- DCPS' new student cell phone policy
- Information on Learn24's Student Board
- Resources for maximizing your summer planning
- Resources to share with students exploring college in the fall

Have a great summer!

DCPS Partnerships Team

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Upcoming Dates

- **June 30:** DCPS summer programming begins
- **July 4:** DCPS closed for July 4 holiday
- **July 10/11:** Policy Palooza trainings

Save the Date: Policy Palooza - July 10 & 11

Please join us for our semi-annual **Policy Palooza** training in July. Twice a year, the DCPS Partnerships team hosts a training session for new and returning School Program Providers (SPPs) covering key policies,

procedures, and resources you need to know when partnering with the district.

In response to partner feedback, this summer we are offering two training sessions: one specific to new SPPs and one for both new and returning providers.

1. **JULY 10, 2025 – Part 1: Becoming a DCPS School Program Provider.** We will review [all the requirements](#) for becoming an SPP including registering, identifying a school, obtaining your agreement, clearances, and facilities use. We will also share helpful resources to support you throughout the process. This training is **strongly encouraged for new SPPs (organizations who do not currently have a partnership with DCPS or have had their MOA/Purchase Order for less than 1 year).**

Policy Palooza Part 1 - Register Here

2. **JULY 11, 2025 – Part 2: Policies and Requirements for DCPS School Program Providers.** We will review key policies and requirements around student safety, equitable access to programming, and hosting events. This training is **REQUIRED for all SPPs.**

Policy Palooza Part 2 - Register Here

If you cannot attend at these times, all sessions will be recorded and made available on the DCPS Partnerships website.

***New* DCPS Cell Phone Policy**

After substantial discussions with our community, DCPS will implement a [district-wide phone policy](#) beginning in School Year (SY) 2025-2026. Starting this August, all DCPS schools will adopt and enforce a cell phone-free policy during the "bell-to-bell" school day. This means that students will not be permitted to use their cell phones or personal electronic communication devices from the time the first bell rings in the morning until the dismissal bell in the afternoon, with limited exceptions.

Individual schools will determine how students' phones will be stored during the school day, in alignment with the policy. While all DCPS middle schools and several of our high schools already operate phone-free campuses, this will be a new shift for some school communities.

DCPS Partners should connect with their partner schools to understand what implementation will look like in the building. Partners are also encouraged to align their own technology policies with their partner schools' to ensure consistent expectations for students.

Share with Your Students: Learn24 Student Board

The Deputy Mayor for Education's Office of Out of School Time Grants and Youth Outcomes (OST Office) is seeking young people, **ages 14-24**, to serve on an OST Office Youth Advisory Board.

The purpose of the board is to advise the OST Office on afterschool and summer program offerings and program needs, provide feedback on OST grant competitions offered, inform OST assessments, and serve as a public voice for youth across DC.

Time commitment will be 1-2 hours/week maximum and is on a volunteer basis. Students under 18 will require parental consent.

Resource Spotlight: Partner Preparedness Checklist

As you prepare for School Year 2025-2026, review our [Partner Preparedness Checklist](#) to ensure you have completed all the required steps to provide programming in DCPS.

Partner Preparedness Checklist

- I am a registered School Program Provider.
 - I have partnered with a school(s).
 - I have an active agreement with DCPS (Purchase Order or Memorandum of Agreement).
 - All of my staff and volunteers have been cleared by the DCPS Clearance Office.
 - (If using DCPS facilities outside of regular school hours) I have a Facilities Use Agreement with the Department of General Services for the school(s) in which I'll be operating.
 - (If providing free programming to DCPS) I have a donations agreement with DCPS.
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Resource Spotlight: DCPS Partnership Toolkit

Summer is a great time to reflect on programming and identify opportunities for continued improvement as we move into the next school year. As your team reflects on what worked, where you want to improve, and how to maximize your school partnerships, please consult the [DCPS Partnerships Toolkit](#).

The toolkit is broken into five topic guides that include best practices for schools and partners, relevant resources to support best practice implementation as well as any required actions. This resource can be used as new partnerships are developed or to strengthen existing partnerships.

Resource Spotlight: DCPS Scholarship Database

DCPS students can find local and national scholarships to help pay for college through the [Dollars4College Scholarship Database](#).

Do you have a scholarship opportunity to share? Help students access the funding they need by adding or updating a scholarship in the DCPS database. Whether you are a sponsor or just want to share an opportunity, we welcome your submissions! [Fill out our New Scholarship Form](#) to get started and make a difference today.

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