



DCPS Partnerships

DCPS.Partnerships@k12.dc.gov

DCPS Partnerships Newsletter

August 2026

Dear DC Public Schools (DCPS) Partners,

A new school year is here, and DCPS is grateful for the partners who help students thrive each day. Thank you for the dedication, collaboration, and support you bring to school communities across the district.

In this month's newsletter, you will find helpful updates and reminders to support your planning for the year ahead:

- **School Year 2026-2027 (SY 26-27) Reminders:**
Partner Readiness Checklist and Clearances
- **SY 26-27 Reminders:** Reconfirm your DCPS Partnership
- **SY 26-27 Updates:** Building Use Agreement Process Changes
- **Save the Date:** DCPS 2026 Back To School Block Party
- **Resource Spotlight:** Policy Palooza

Here's to a great school year!

Best,

Abby Cohen

Director, Partnerships

DCPS Partnerships Team

Upcoming Dates

- **9/7:** DCPS Closed (Labor Day)
- **10/12:** DCPS Closed (Indigenous Peoples' Day)
- **10/13:** No School for Students (Conference Day)

Ensure You Are Back-to-School Ready!

In preparation for SY 26-27, please ensure you have completed all requirements outlined below. **These actions must be completed before programming begins.**

NO STAFF OR VOLUNTEERS CAN WORK WITH STUDENTS IN PERSON OR VIRTUALLY UNTIL THEY HAVE SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED THE DCPS CLEARANCE PROCESS.

DCPS School Year Readiness Checklist for School Program Providers*

What do I need to do to work with a DCPS school?

- ☐ Confirm your registration with DCPS. This lets us know you are still interested in working with DCPS this year.
- ☐ Confirm you have a valid DCPS Memorandum of Agreement or purchase order in place.
- ☐ Ensure all staff and volunteers are cleared by DCPS before they begin services.
- ☐ Have a fully executed Building Use Agreement with the Department of General Services for each program site if operating outside of regular school hours.
- ☐ Have a fully executed Donation Agreement if you are providing free programming.

Questions? Visit dcpspartnerships.com

*School Program Providers are external organizations that work with DCPS students 3+ times/year and are not health or mental health programs.



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Reminder: Reconfirm Your DCPS Partnership by August 28

All active DCPS partners are required to reconfirm their School Program Provider (SPP) registration annually. This process ensures that SPP profiles are up to date and confirms that partners have completed the required Policy Palooza training and recommitted to DCPS policies for the upcoming school year.

Schools and teams across Central Services rely on this information to discover new opportunities and understand the landscape of partnerships across DCPS, so thank you in advance for your time and attention to this important update.

Please note, this process is only required for organizations providing programming directly to students three or more times per year. For instructions and support with the update, please review [this guidance document](#).

As always, please reach out to DCPS.Partnerships@k12.dc.gov with any questions.

SY 26-27 Updates: Building Use Agreement Process Changes

The Department of General Services (DGS) has made some Building Use Agreement (BUA) process improvements. **Here is what you need to know:**

- **The Application for Facilities Use is now a fillable PDF.** This must be signed by the principal and submitted to the DGS Realty Office (applications@dc.gov) at least 20 business days before programming begins.
- **Afterschool (3:00-5:59 p.m.) field use is no longer included in the Application for Facilities Use and must instead be submitted via RecTrac**—the same online portal used by the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR).
- **Payments must be made online via RecTrac.** For more information about setting up your profile in RecTrac, please visit the [DGS website](#) or e-mail permits.dcps@k12.dc.gov.

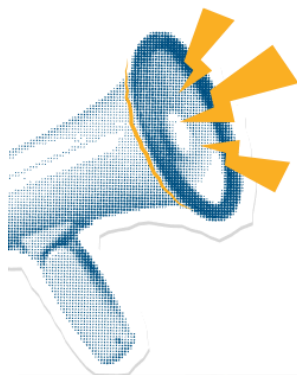
Save the Date: Join Us! DCPS Back To School Block Party (September 26)

Please join us on Saturday, September 26, at Dunbar High School for the 2026 DCPS Back To School Block Party. There will be free food and fun activities for all ages.

[Subscribe](#) to our email list.

including face painting and student performances. Please RSVP at the link here:
<https://bit.ly/DCPSBlockParty2026>

DCPS BACK TO SCHOOL



BLOCK PARTY



SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26
11:00 AM - 2:00 PM

DUNBAR HIGH SCHOOL
101 N Street, NW



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SÁBADO 26 DE SEPTIEMBRE
11:00 a. m. - 2:00 p. m.

DUNBAR HIGH SCHOOL
101 N Street, NW



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Resource Spotlight: Policy Palooza Deck and Recording

The slide decks and recordings from the July 2026 Policy Palooza trainings are **available for reference on our website**. These required trainings are for new and returning School Program Providers (SPPs) and cover key policies, procedures, and resources related to partnering with DCPS. Policy Palooza is divided into two sections:

[Subscribe](#) to our email list.

Part 1: Becoming a DCPS SPP: Reviews the requirements for becoming an SPP including registering, identifying a school, obtaining your agreement, clearances, and facilities' use.

Part 2: Policies and Requirements for DCPS SPPs: Reviews key policies and requirements around student safety, equitable access to programming, and hosting events.

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