



## Wilson HS Feeder Pattern Community Working Group: Frequently Asked Questions

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Spring 2017

The Wilson High School Feeder Pattern Community Working Group (CWG) is a group of stakeholders from schools in the Wilson High School feeder pattern who will provide input on DCPS' approach to managing enrollment growth and facility capacity at Wilson and its feeder schools. The group is an advisory body that will inform DCPS decisions, but will not be responsible for making decisions on its own. The group is also a way to foster open communication between DCPS and the involved communities throughout the process.

This Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document provides more information about the purpose of the Community Working Group and how it advises DCPS throughout the planning process. Any questions can be directed to the DCPS Community Engagement and School Planning Teams at [dcps.planning@dc.gov](mailto:dcps.planning@dc.gov).

**Q: What is a Community Working Group?**

A: In the past, DCPS has convened Community Working Groups to provide input on the school planning process. In past Working Groups, members have typically advised DCPS on school programming, facility modernization, and community engagement. For this project, the CWG will advise DCPS as we assess school facility utilization, current enrollment and projections, and analyze possible approaches to address the issue. The CWG will also provide broader insight into what parents and community members want through this process, and be a means of communicating progress and updates out to their respective communities.

**Q: What is the goal of this Community Working Group?**

A: The goal of the CWG is to ensure DCPS' approach to facility space and enrollment planning in the Wilson feeder pattern and any solutions we pursue reflect the voices of staff, parents and individual school communities. By December 2017, we hope to move forward with solutions that have come out of this community engagement process, largely driven by the work we do with the CWG. These solutions should inform both the Master Facilities Plan and the Fiscal Year 2019 budgeting process.

**Q: Who is on the Community Working Group and how were they selected?**

A: The group is comprised of around 30 members. It includes one parent and one school leader or staff member from each school in the Wilson High School feeder pattern, as well as a representative each from the Ward 3/Wilson Feeder Pattern Education Network and the office of Ward 3 Councilmember Cheh, and the Ward 3 State Board of Education Representative. In partnership with our school leaders, DCPS makes an effort to reflect the diverse groups within each school community. Members were selected by individual school leaders with support from their parent leaders as well as the Community Engagement and School Planning Teams.

**Q: What is the term and commitment associated with the Community Working Group?**

A: We expect the CWG to have 5 total meetings, beginning in May and running through mid-fall 2017. We'll typically meet monthly for two hours each month from 6:00 to 8:00pm at a DCPS school or DC Library. Unfortunately, DCPS cannot provide childcare, but we will provide refreshments at each meeting.

Members will have three primary responsibilities: 1) Gather input from stakeholders in their school community, 2) Bring that input to the group conversation, and 3) Keep their communities informed about any new information that comes up at meetings. We encourage members to find an alternate representative from their school in the event they are unable to attend a meeting. However, consistent attendance from primary representatives is preferable to ensure group rapport and continuity of work.

**Q: How will group members gather input from and share information with the larger community?**

A: Working Group members are community representatives to DCPS. They are expected to reach out to the school communities they represent to gather input on the key questions the group is dealing with as well as share updates from meetings with their communities. Working Group member input from these meetings will be shared with the Chancellor and the DCPS leadership team. Meeting notes will be posted at <http://bit.ly/dcpsplanning> in order to keep community members informed throughout the planning process. Agendas and meeting topics will be shared with Community Working Group members at least one week before each meeting to ensure that members have adequate time to gather input and research the topic prior to the meeting.

**Q: Who facilitates Community Working Group meetings?**

A: The DCPS Community Engagement and School Planning Teams will facilitate Community Working Group meetings. We will ask participants to follow norms to ensure all members feel comfortable expressing their voices. Members will be held accountable to respecting these norms in order to help create an environment friendly to rich discussion.

**Q: How does the CWG fit into a broader engagement process? Can I weigh in if I'm not a member?**

A: While the Community Working Group is a central piece of how DCPS will gather feedback, there are a number of opportunities to weigh in throughout the process. This includes broader community meetings in the fall and a survey we'll have open through September 30<sup>th</sup> to get input more broadly. The survey will be available in late May. A link to the survey will be provided to Community Working Group members for distribution to their broader communities and will be posted at <http://bit.ly/dcpsplanning>.