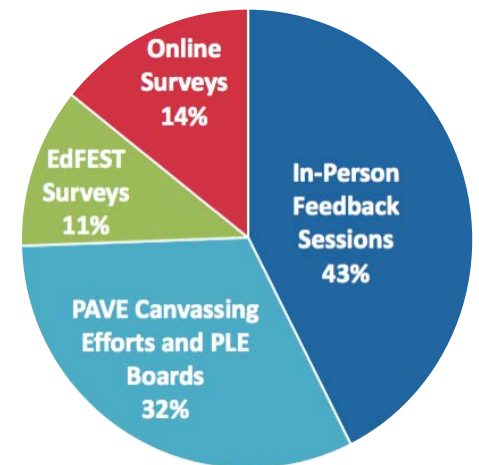## Why a State School Report Card?

ESSA, the new federal law passed in 2015, requires all states—including DC—to develop a plan to achieve specific educational goals. These goals include reaching higher educational standards (improving PARCC scores, access to advanced courses, and increased graduation rates, etc.), developing a new accountability system and working to closing the achievement gap. **To give families a tool to truly assess and understand how schools are doing on each of these goals, each state is also responsible for creating a State Report Card to demonstrate school performance and quality.**

Because DC's education system includes both DCPS and public charter schools, this State Report Card will finally give parents up-to-date, comparable information across both sectors. For the first time, parents will be able to truly see which schools are best for their children. This report card will be finalized in December, to be used for the 2017-2018 school year.

A Parent-Driven Development Process

The Office of the State Superintendent (OSSE) is responsible for implementing DC's ESSA plan, including creating the school report card. OSSE is working with the community to do so in three phases. In the first phase, OSSE heard from over 1,900 community members to inform the what content would be included the report card. Almost one third of the feedback was driven by PAVE through both focus groups with parent leaders and surveying 515 families all across the District. **Overwhelmingly, parents wanted to see information about teacher quality, academic performance broken down by subgroup, and information about attendance, funding, and programs available for students and families.**

In-Person Feedback Sessions 43%
PAVE Canvassing Efforts and PLE Boards 32%
Online Surveys 14%
EdFEST Surveys 11%

OSSE will continue to partner with PAVE during the remaining two phases of the report card development, seeking parent input to drive the language, design, and usability of the report card.

What is Included on the State Report Card?

The State Report Card includes four concept areas:
- **School Profile**: school overview, enrollment data, program offerings
- **Academic Performance:** student achievement and growth, graduation rate, college and career readiness, English Language proficiency
- **School Environment**: attendance, teacher information, school finance, safety and discipline data, health information
- **STAR (School Transparency and Reporting) Rating Framework:** the annual overall rating will be calculated for each school in DC, ranging from one star (lowest) to five stars (highest)

What Does This Mean for Schools?

The State Report Card will be released in December, revealing an apples-to-apples performance comparison for all of DC's schools. **As part of the STAR Rating Framework, the State Report Card will also identify schools for comprehensive or targeted support for improvement.**

Descriptions of School Improvement Designations

School Designation	Description
Comprehensive Support and Improvement	• Lowest-performing five percent of schools overall. • Any high school with a four-year adjusted cohort graduation rate at or below 67 percent.
Targeted Support and Improvement	• Any school in which one or more subgroups of students is performing at or below the performance of all students in the lowest-performing schools (Comprehensive Support and Improvement schools).

These schools will be given additional resources and undergo an annual review for the next three to four years to assess progress. If schools are not able to make significant gains during that time period, ESSA requires a more rigorous intervention from OSSE. Some examples include:

- **School Closure:** students would attend a different, higher performing school
- **Reconstitution**: schools would replace most or all existing school leaders and staff
- **Change in LEA**:
  - A charter operator would take over a DCPS school
  - DCPS would take over a charter school

DC's ESSA plan notes that if stronger intervention from OSSE is necessary, community and student input must be included in deciding the best path forward. **We know that all schools are working incredibly hard to support students, and with greater clarity on school performance and a framework to hold schools accountable, we can make sure each student and school in the District is successful.**

How Can Parents Help Shape the State Report Card?

To ensure **parent voice is included** in the State Report Card Development process:

- Attend a **State Board of Education Working Group** meeting
- Sign up for updates at https://osse.dc.gov/builddcsreportcard
- Host an **OSSE community engagement session**
- Contact PAVE's **community organizing team** at organizers@dcpave.org for more information!

Learn More:

- ❖ *Learn more about the feedback process for the content of the State Report Card and what is included here: bit.ly/2rAkKSL*

- ❖ *For more information on ESSA and DC's State Plan, go to: https://osse.dc.gov/essa*