

**Simone Scott**  
**State Board of Education**  
**State Board of Education Meeting**  
**April 26, 2023**

To President Thompson, Vice President O’Leary, and State Board of Education Members,

I am Simone Scott, a native Washingtonian and mother of 2; a thriving Sophomore at Digital Pioneers Academy (DPA) and a Kindergartener loving her learning experience at I Dream - both are Public Charter Schools East of The River. Additionally, I am a dual Parent Board Member with DPA (Digital Pioneers Academy), and Ward 7 PLE member of PAVE (Parents Amplifying Voices for Education).

With limited time, I thank you for your support and partnership in advocating for the needs of our students and schools. I will be testifying today about transportation, experiential learning, and improved access to school-based mental health.

**Expand Transportation for Out-of-School Time (OST) Activities**

As a Social Impact Entrepreneur graduating the District’s first DHS Business Entrepreneurship Course 5 years ago, I am spearheading the need for Business Entrepreneurship vendor accreditation as a 2nd Generation Activity. Career training placement through business entrepreneurship and ownership are not fully supported currently by the District. It is important that we continue to explore how we can extend the DC Connect service Program to fulfill the needs around Out of School Time enrichment.

**Targeted Experiential Learning**

I’m hoping that the District will consider supporting implementing an elective magnet program model, for our schools to increase career readiness, and cognitive behavioral strategies. Both have shown effectiveness in elevating the school setting and better servicing the needs of every student on their level. This model allows educators, parents, and professionals to place scholars in particular pods for their specific developments, increasing the probability of on track scholars. In addition, pairing parents and students with trusted professionals to provide the proper resources for the family together to remain on target helps students. Although college readiness is our academic mission, I find many of our kids crave a more creative rigorous

curriculum. Reintroducing vocational trade learning back into our schools is critical. As our scholars earn their credits required for graduation, these experiences build more life skills and accessibility to sustain any continuing educational or career path.

**Improve access to comprehensive school-based mental health.**

- Studies have also shown schools that expanded meditation such as Transcendental and mindfulness practices during the school day have also proven to lower hyper activity, increase focus, and stimulate creativity within their scholars and school staff promoting overall School- Based Mental Health.
- We should also work to achieve reciprocity with surrounding states to help hire quality professionals in positions unfilled.

Again, I thank you for your time, consideration, and this concludes my testimony.

Sincerely,

[Simone Scott](#)

Social Impact Founder, and Dual Ward 7 Board Member (PAVE PLE Board, and Digital Pioneers Academy)