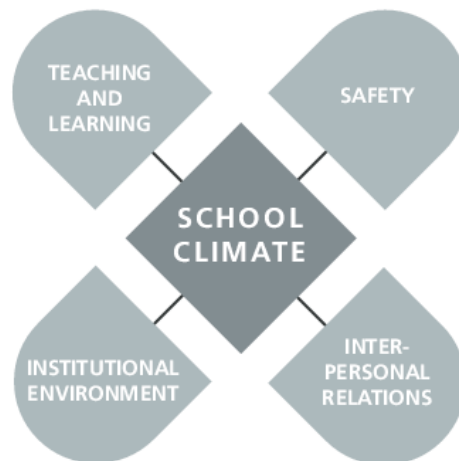


## School Climate

**Potential parent priority:** Parent-driven metrics that support a positive school climate, specifically citywide school discipline and attendance policies.

### What is School Climate?

Defined by the National School Climate Center, school climate is the “**quality and character of school life,**” which impacts the experiences of students and school staff.



### What’s the current state of key aspects of school climate in DC: discipline and attendance policies?

#### School discipline

- Despite only making up 66% of the student body, **Black students make up more than 90% of students who receive out-of-school suspensions** in school year 2018-2019.
- **Students in special education made up more than 30% of students with out-of-school suspensions**, even though only 16% of all DC students receive special education services and supports.

#### Attendance

- During school year 2021-2022, **almost half of all students, 48%, missed 10% or more of school.**
- This lower attendance rate came from many reasons, including COVID-19 absences, mental health issues, and issues adjusting back to in-person learning.