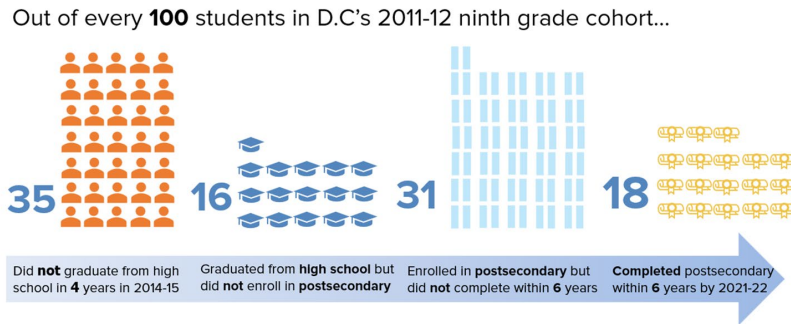


# LAUNCHING DC'S EDUCATION THROUGH EMPLOYMENT DATA SYSTEM

## THE CHALLENGE

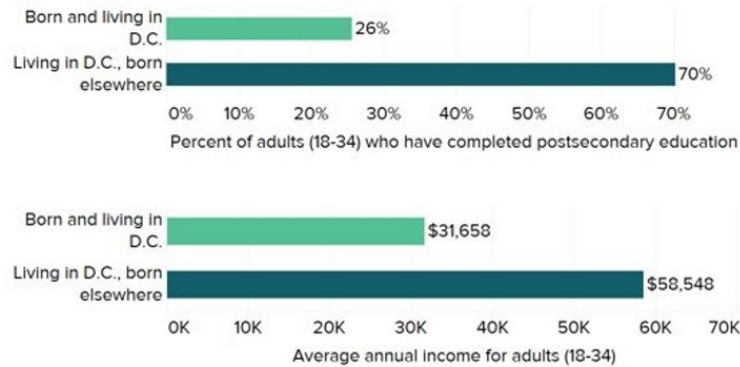
Despite significant improvements and investments in public education, current data shows us that DC students continue to face challenges on the path to a family-sustaining career. As of 2022, only eighteen out of every 100 students in a ninth-grade cohort are projected to complete a postsecondary degree within six years.<sup>1</sup>

Figure 1. School Year 2021-2022 Postsecondary Outcomes<sup>2</sup>



Despite this information on education outcomes, the District currently has little insight into whether former students are employed and earning family sustaining wages. The available data about employment outcomes indicates that residents who were born in DC earn less than half the income of their counterparts who relocated to the city.<sup>3</sup>

Figure 2. Outcomes for Adults Born and Living in DC versus those Living in DC and Born Elsewhere<sup>4</sup>



<sup>1</sup> Source: OSSE. 2023. "High school & college milestones: A cohort-based illustration of DC's trends." Retrieved from: <http://osse.dc.gov/publication/dc-trends-2011-2012-cohort-high-school-and-college-milestone>.

<sup>2</sup> Coffin, C. and Rubin, J. 2023. *State of D.C. Schools, 2022 – 23: In-Person Learning, Measuring Outcomes, and Work on Recovery*. D.C. Policy Center. Available at: [State of D.C. Schools, 2022-23: Challenges to pandemic recovery in a new normal - D.C. Policy Center \(dcpolicycenter.org\)](https://www.dcpolicycenter.org/publications/state-of-dc-schools-2022-23-challenges-to-pandemic-recovery-in-a-new-normal).

<sup>3</sup> Calma, E. and Sayin, Y. 2021. *The Case for Making a Local Talent Pipeline in the District of Columbia*. D.C. Policy Center. Available at: [The case for creating a local talent pipeline in the District of Columbia - D.C. Policy Center \(dcpolicycenter.org\)](https://www.dcpolicycenter.org/publications/the-case-for-creating-a-local-talent-pipeline-in-the-district-of-columbia).

<sup>4</sup> Coffin, C. 2023. *Funding an Education to Employment Data System would fill an important gap in knowledge about D.C.'s public school alumni*. D.C. Policy Center. Available at: <https://www.dcpolicycenter.org/publications/education-to-employment-data/>.

## EDUCATION THROUGH EMPLOYMENT DATA SYSTEM

In order to best serve DC youth and adults, District schools and policymakers need access to consistent information about the impact of education and workforce programs on future employment and economic opportunities. Similarly, in order to make decisions about their futures, DC residents and employers need information about economic outcomes for residents who enroll in education and workforce programs, and the local supply of talent. Toward this goal, the District has launched the Office of Education Through Employment Pathways within the Office of the Deputy Mayor for Education. This new office is charged with launching the Education Through Employment (ETE) Data System, which will provide key insights to inform both policy and practice.

*Mission:* The Office of Education Through Employment Pathways is focused on ensuring that DC youth and adults are on a path to economic mobility and prosperity through access to education and workforce programming that provide the skills and experience necessary to thrive.

*Vision:* The Office of Education through Employment Pathways is responsible for supporting District residents on the path to access good jobs and achieve economic mobility, and supporting employers in the development of a local talent pipeline. This goal is accomplished through the following:

- 1) Building a clear picture of opportunities and supports that are setting DC residents up for economic mobility through the **creation of the District's Education through Employment Data System**, which will build a longitudinal picture of how residents are served by District education and workforce programming throughout their lifetime;
- 2) **Leveraging data-driven insights to inform District investments and policymaking** focused on aligned pathways from education through employment, post-secondary planning and support, and industry-responsive continuous improvement;
- 3) Empowering residents and the organizations that serve them to make informed decisions about the education and workforce programs that best fit their needs through **access to public information on program outcomes and impact**; and
- 4) Supporting employers in building a local talent pipeline through **access to public information about aligned programs, training opportunities, and outcomes** from the education and workforce systems.

## ACCELERATING DISTRICT PRIORITIES

Mayor Bowser has invested more than \$100M in reimagining high school with a focus on increased access to authentic college and career experiences, and specialized coursework. Toward this goal, the District has made substantial investments in middle school career exploration, school year internships, dual enrollment, the [Advanced Technical Center](#), virtual course hub offerings, and other work-based learning opportunities. The Education Through Employment data project will provide critical information about the impact of this programming on students' future education and employment outcomes.

In alignment with the Office of Racial Equity's guidance, this effort will prioritize disaggregated data by race and ethnicity and examine the factors leading to varying outcomes across demographics. While there is a wealth of information confirming the discrepancies in academic and employment outcomes by race and ethnicity, this effort will focus on what activities are decreasing persistent gaps. To drive systemwide progress toward closing gaps across racial and ethnic groups in the District, the Office of Education Through Employment Pathways will engage with community stakeholders to ensure that the focus areas of this effort and the information publicly available is most impactful for DC families.

## GROUNDING IN BEST PRACTICES

More than 20 states have launched similar efforts to improve understanding of long-term education and employment outcomes for residents. For example, the state of Kentucky's longitudinal data system, [KY-STATS](#), draws on information from pre-school through high school, college, and workforce to produce insights focused on secondary, postsecondary, career technical education, teacher preparation, credential attainment, and workforce readiness measures. By connecting data across these systems, Kentucky has leveraged insights from its longitudinal data system to inform policymaking and measure outcomes for students navigating education and workforce programming across the state.

In a recent analysis, KY-STATS compared the wages of high school graduates who engaged in specific dual enrollment programs to the wages of the overall graduating class. Findings from this analysis revealed that career-bound graduates who participated in dual enrollment programs demonstrated stronger employment outcomes than career-bound graduates overall.<sup>5</sup> The Education Through Employment Data System will allow the District to generate similar insights to inform new approaches toward supporting both college and career-bound graduates.

## LOOKING AHEAD

The Office of Education Through Employment Pathways will work closely with government, resident, community and employer stakeholders on the development of this project as it evolves in the coming years. As a result of these efforts, the District will be able to put more residents on a path to economic mobility by leveraging information about the education, workforce, and related supports that have the most significant impact on the lives of DC residents.

### 2024

- Launch the Office of Education Through Employment Pathways
- Engage the community on key priorities for this work
- Create and implement governance structure
- Publish early data insights on the scale and impact of reimagine high school investments for policymakers

### 2025

- Publish early data insights for policymakers on outcomes for DC students
- Launch the Education Through Employment Data System with access for government agencies to inform policy and practice

### 2026 and beyond

- Develop public-facing resources for families, community partners, and employers
- Continue to publish information from the system to inform policy and practice

### **What will this work mean for families?**

The Education Through Employment Data System will allow families to understand which education and workforce programs are most likely to lead to good jobs and economic mobility. This could include questions like:



- What high school experiences are most likely to prepare me for a high-paying job?

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<sup>5</sup> *Work Ready Dual Credit Scholarship*, 2023. Available at:

<https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/CommitteeDocuments/376/26809/03%20-%20KYSTATS%20Lottery%20Taskforce%20Presentation%20WKDC%20FINAL.pdf>

- What post-secondary degree program is the best fit for my short- and long-term employment goals?
- What training programs are most likely to put me in a position to earn a higher wage in an industry I am interested in pursuing?

### ***What will this work mean for schools?***

Though Local Education Agencies (LEAs) have a wealth of information about students enrolled in the PK-12 system, school teams often do not have clear insights on students' employment outcomes after high school, including the outcomes for students who choose not to pursue a post-secondary degree. Through this work, the Education Through Employment Data System can offer insights to answer questions such as:



- What programming is supporting increases in high school graduation, college matriculation, college completion, and securing high-wage jobs?
- What are the points where students most often get off track and how can the District support them at these key moments?

### ***What will this work mean for employers?***

In order to build a local talent pipeline and hire DC residents, employers need consistent information on what programs are developing qualified talent. The Education Through Employment Data System is intended to help employers answer questions such as:



- What programs are developing residents with the skills to meet my hiring needs?
- What education and training opportunities should I partner with to develop a local talent pipeline based on projected future growth in my industry?

### ***What will this work mean for policymakers?***

In order to put District residents on a path to economic mobility, District policymakers need access to information about the outcomes for residents who are served by education and workforce programs. This information can then inform data-driven policy development and program implementation. The Education Through Employment Data System is intended to support policymakers in answering questions such as:



- What education programs lead to the highest rates of postsecondary completion and highest wages?
- Are DC students entering the industries that they study in Career and Technical Education courses, workforce programs, and higher education?
- What education and workforce programs are closing gaps in wages and employment for young people furthest from opportunity?