

# School Safety Enhancement Committee

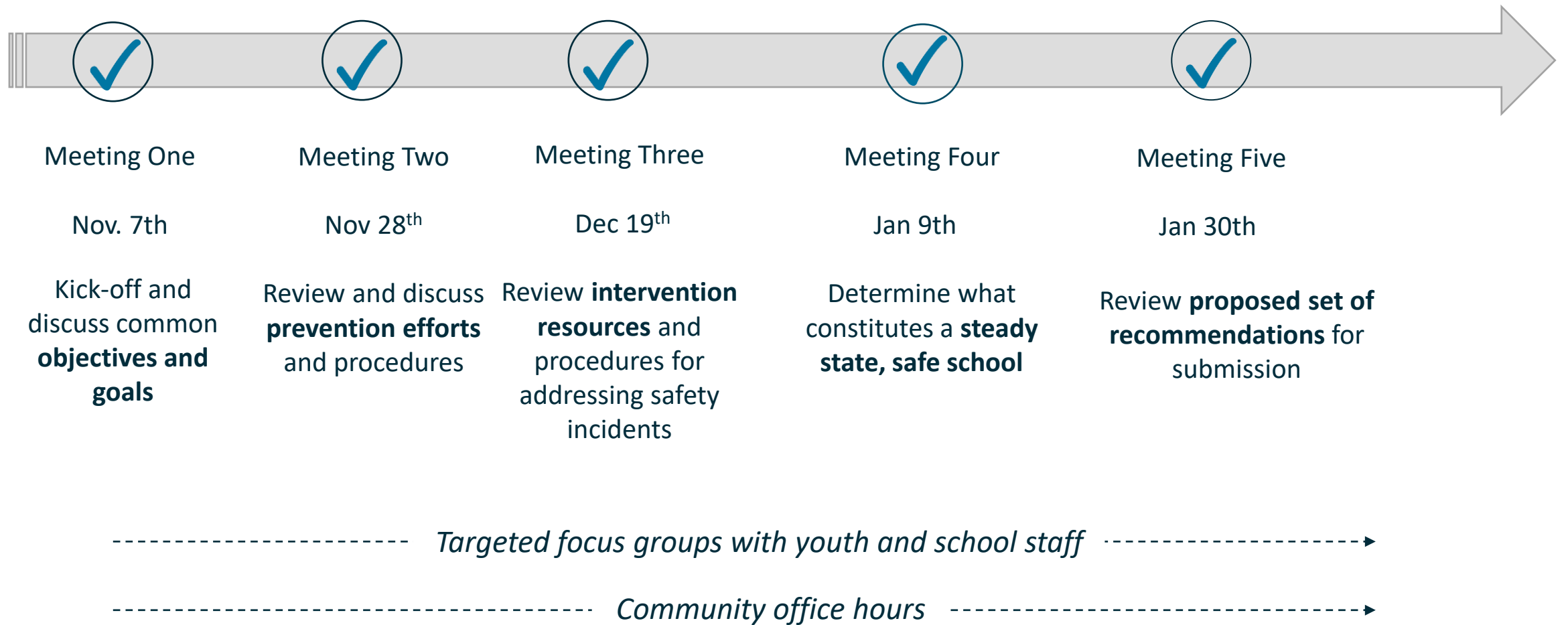
Session 5



# Goals for today

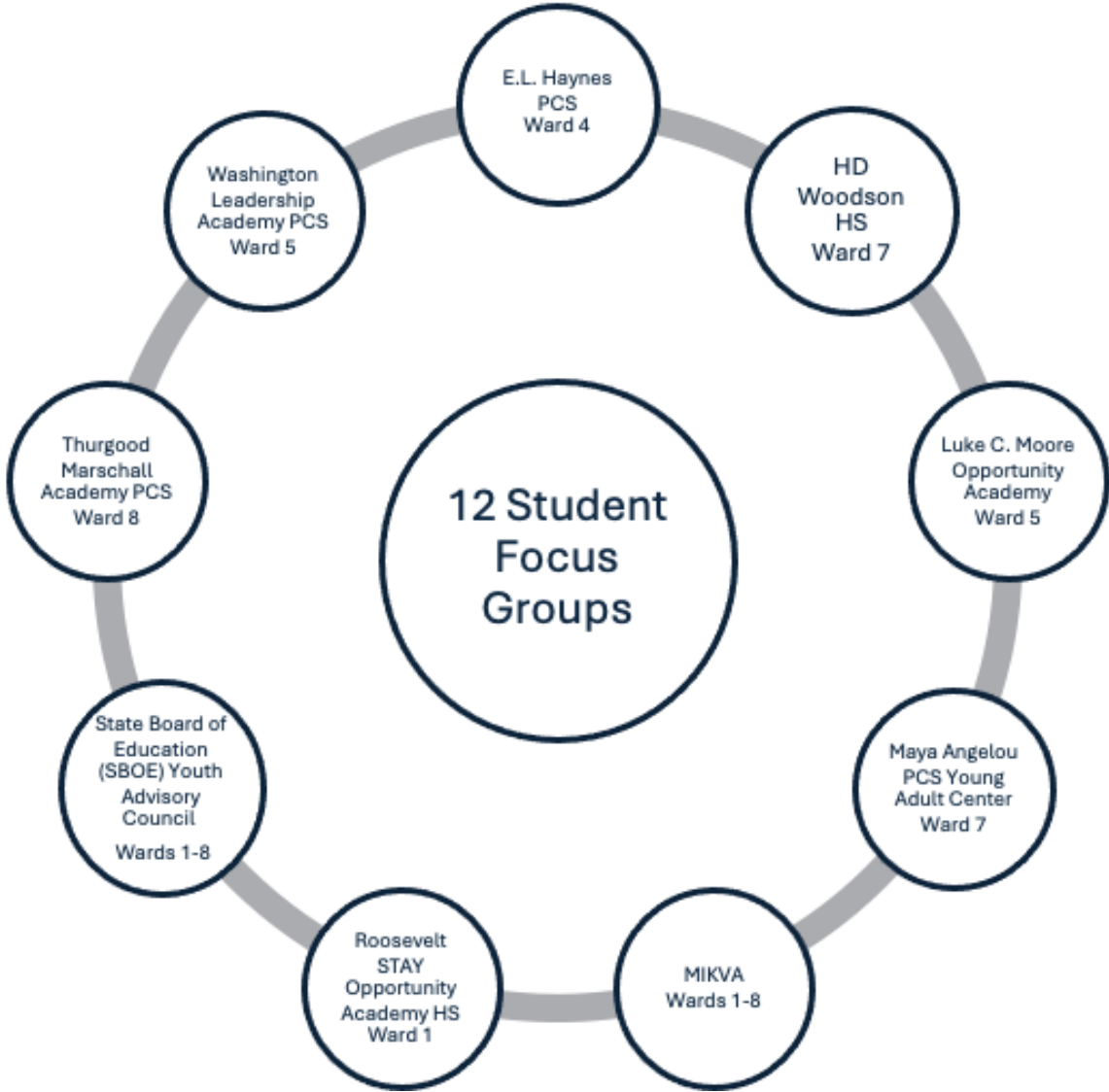
- Welcome and recap of prior sessions
- Review and provide feedback on draft recommendations
- Closing

# Timeline through February



# Stakeholder Engagement Overview

To support generating recommendations that reflect the values and experiences of multiple stakeholders, we've met with several school communities



# Stakeholder Engagement Overview



# Stakeholder Engagement Overview

## Experts



## CBO & Advocacy Groups

DC CHARTER SCHOOL ALLIANCE



**S.H.A.P.P.E**  
The Senior High Alliance for Parents  
Principals and Educators



# School Safety categories of improvement

## The safest place for our children to be is in school.

- Some core things have changed over the last few years, though, so we must adapt too:
  - The pandemic stalled **social and emotional development** of our youth
  - The role that **social media** plays on relationships has risen
  - How families perceive the **importance of attending school** has deteriorated
- Violence in DC is on the rise, and our youth are impacted, including as they commute to and from school
- And, as a result, our schools feel they have had to manage more, and with limited tools

Get more kids safely back into the school building

Strengthen school safety teams

Keep the small stuff from escalating

Improve safety information flow into and out of schools

Give schools better safety intervention tools

Establish a set of resources for the small number of students who are most at risk, regardless of school

# Goals for today

- Welcome and recap of prior sessions
- Review and provide feedback on draft recommendations
- Closing



# Recommendation Review

In pairs, review and discuss each school safety goal and its corresponding set of recommendations.

## For each set of recommendations consider:

1. Do these recommendations feel right?
2. Is there anything missing?
3. What needs to be true in order for this recommendation to work?
4. What are the potential challenges of this recommendation?

# Goal 1 : Get more kids safely back into our school buildings.

*Consider doing now:*

- a. Implement a pilot for **staggered arrival and dismissal times** in safe passage priority areas with multiple schools near metro hot spots.
- b. Enforce penalties for **illegal activities near schools**, including enforcement of drug free zones, and increased awareness of penalties (updated signage and PSA on transportation).
- c. Revise the criteria for **designating safe passage priority areas** to ensure clarity and consistency; establish different service levels within safe passage areas based on school and neighborhood needs. Establish new criteria for high-risk areas to receive “surge support” (e.g., a Safe Passage roving team) outside of designated safe passage areas.

# Goal 1 : Get more kids safely back into our school buildings. Cont'd

*Consider doing with additional resources:*

- a. Establish a baseline of **school safety infrastructure** (e.g., entryway access, hardware, cameras, lighting) and provide funding and oversight to ensure compliance across all schools.
  - Implement program with MPD to provide charter schools with **external cameras**.
- b. Reform the **truancy referral process** to provide more support to students and families to attend school.
  - Revise requirements for **School Support Team meetings** to allow schools to prioritize support for most at-risk students.
  - Introduce **new case management support** for students and families in advance of CFSA and Court referrals to do supportive outreach and attendance barrier remediation.
  - **Expand the PASS program** for students ages 14-17.
- c. Provide **transportation** for high-risk students in safety “hot spot” areas.
  - Work with WMATA to increase **bus service frequency** and consider dedicated student buses.
  - Provide **shuttle service** between schools and metro.
  - In select cases provide **door to door** transportation.
- d. Expand **Safe Passage teams** to cover all schools within Safe Passage priority areas, and to include any need for “surge” capacity in other places.

## Goal 2 : Strengthen school teams.

*Consider doing now:*

- a. Require all schools to **establish School Safety Teams** comprised of at least the following core functions:
  - School **safety leader** to convene team and monitor work (incident commander).
  - School **discipline lead**.
  - Safety **point of contact** for external agencies and organizations.
  - School **social-emotional learning lead** (e.g., social worker).
- b. Publicize **list** of all school safety points of contact.
- c. Create and share **best practice protocols** for school safety teams including regular meeting cadence and content and standing operating procedures for safety-related scenarios (e.g., fight, information about community-based violence).
  - Convey to schools best practice in **engaging MPD**.

## Goal 2 : Strengthen school teams. Cont'd

*Consider doing with additional resources:*

- a. **Establish career pathways** for hardest-to-fill safety roles (e.g., behavior techs) to strengthen recruitment and retention.
  - Identify role progression opportunities along **predictable pathways**.
  - Increase **compensation**.
  - Evaluate where to allow experience to count in lieu of education **requirements for hiring**.
  - Establish **apprenticeships** for behavioral and student support staff positions.
- b. Provide schools with the highest rates of out-of-school suspension and incidents of in-school violence with a temporary dedicated Restorative Justice Coach provided through OSSE to strengthen the capacity of the school to implement restorative justice and conflict resolution.
- c. Explore establishing a **charter sector school safety hub** to provide on-going technical assistance alongside real-time support during safety incidents.

## Goal 3: Keep the small stuff from escalating.

*Consider doing now:*

- a. Help schools limit **cell phone and social media** use.
  - Social media awareness training for students, starting as early as elementary school, as part of health education; include peer to peer education.
  - Establish a public service campaign on the risks of social media geared towards students and parents.
  - Encourage use of pouches or lockers; explore District-wide in-school ban on cell phones.
- b. Stronger **monitoring by MPD** of youth engagement on social media coupled with reporting to school safety POC to prevent in-school and out-of-school conflict escalation.

# Goal 3: Keep the small stuff from escalating. Cont'd

*Consider doing with additional resources:*

- a. Elevate and approve the **conflict resolution state standards** that OSSE is completing as part of its comprehensive social-emotional learning standards.
- b. Strengthen capacity of teachers and leaders to **implement conflict resolution**; have OSSE establish a set of approved training providers for conflict resolution; offer training to safety team members, teachers, and leaders; provide stipends for participation; establish Community of Practice for participants.
- c. Expand **youth employment and career pathway opportunities** in schools in safe passage priority areas.
  - CTE program expansion.
  - SYIP, SYEP.
- d. Expand **mentorship programs** in safe passage priority areas.
  - Examples of funded programs include Becoming a Man and Spark the Journey.
- e. Dramatically expand **out of school time programming**, including school-based after-school and neighborhood-based recreation, in safe passage priority areas.
  - OST.
  - Rec for All.
- f. Expand **sports opportunities** for students in safe passage priority areas.
  - Create more opportunities for **low-cost sports development programs** to feed high school sports through partnerships with DPR and support from professional sports teams to provide funding for coaching and programmatic development.
  - Invest in **new facilities** to accommodate expanded athletic programming such as indoor/outdoor track, soccer, and baseball. These locations could be at RFK, the DC Armory, or Kenilworth North.

# Goal 4: Improve safety information flow into and out of schools.

*Consider doing now:*

- a. Establish a **real-time alert system** through HSEMA for schools, safe-passage workers and residents to obtain immediate notification of community-based violence.
  - Consider expanding RAVE or similar application to allow for **two-way communication** between schools and public safety personnel.
  - Include **status updates** in active crisis situations.
- b. Establish **clear points of contact** for all service providers within regions providing safe passage and public safety services, including safe passage staff, crossing guards, violence interrupters, and SROs.
- c. Establish standard operating procedures (SOPs) for all safety communications among schools and safe passage and public safety service providers and agencies, including safe passage staff, crossing guards, violence interrupters, SROs, MTPD, OAG, ONSE; SOPs to focus on relevant and timely flow of information to inform safety actions related to escalating conflict, in-progress shootings, etc.
- d. Create a consistent **student transfer file** developed by OSSE.
  - The **file could include** attendance, academic records, behavioral data, health data, case management/referral data, consistent with privacy laws.
  - Encourage **warm hand off between schools** as they send and receive students.

*Consider doing with additional resources:*

- a. Establish a **Student Data and Intervention system** to share information across government agencies; use this system to strengthen early warning systems, service coordination, referrals, and incident follow-up by service providers.



## Goal 5: Give schools better safety-intervention tools.

*Consider doing now:*

- a. Determine a **standardized deployment of public safety and behavioral health personnel** providing evidence-based, trauma support services and education to schools in crisis
- b. Modify the **suspension code** to allow for suspensions for additional very serious infractions.
  - Allow suspensions for serious safety infractions in **middle school**.
  - Allow suspensions for bringing a **weapon** to school.

*Consider doing with additional resources:*

- a. Expand therapeutic **in-school suspension** model staffed to support social and academic development.
- b. Establish a temporary highly-supportive **placement in an alternative setting** for students involved in the most serious safety incidents and with the greatest behavioral challenges.

# Goal 6: Establish a special set of resources for the small number of students who are most at-risk, regardless of their school.

*Consider doing with additional resources:*

- a. **Identify students at greatest risk** of involvement in serious safety incidents (e.g., those with safety transfer).
- b. Identify a **menu of supportive resources** for students and families at greatest risk of involvement in violence such as:
  - **Priority access** to programming.
  - **Financial incentives** for participation.
- c. Address **service gaps**:
  - Teen-based **cognitive behavioral therapy**.
  - DC-based Psychiatric **Residential Treatment** Facility (PRTF).
  - DC-based **substance abuse** prevention services for teens.
  - DC-based **outpatient** care for teens.
  - DC-based **partial hospitalization** services for teens.

# Goals for today

- Welcome and recap of prior sessions
- Review and provide feedback on draft recommendations
- Closing

# Closing

Thank you for your attendance and participation in this extremely important work.  
**Final feedback and comments will be accepted through January 31<sup>st</sup>.**



<https://forms.office.com/g/uqZ8HGsgBY>

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact [hillary.desir@dc.gov](mailto:hillary.desir@dc.gov)

# Committee Members

1. **Ricky Brown**, Executive Director of School Safety and Security, District of Columbia Public Schools
2. **Dan Davis**, Student Advocate, State Board of Education
3. **John Carlos Green**, Community Engagement Manager, Public Charter School Board
4. **Simaya Hammon**, Banneker High School Student
5. **Nicole McDermott**, Senior Policy Advisor, Office of the Deputy Mayor for Public Safety and Justice
6. **Dontrell Smith**, District of Columbia Public School Parent
7. **Mische' Walden**, School Counselor, Johnson Middle School
8. **Deitrich E. Williams**, District of Columbia Public School Parent
9. **Andre Wright**, Assistant Chief, School Safety Division, Metropolitan Police Department
10. **Tatiana Portillo**, Roosevelt STAY Student