

How Are Closed DCPS Schools Used Today?

Only 3 of the 70 closed DCPS school buildings owned by the city or public charter schools remain vacant; they are being assessed for future need.

Over the past several decades with population decline and low enrollment, the city closed a number of former DCPS schools. Between 2008 and 2013 alone, DCPS closed 34 school facilities. Policy makers and stakeholders are interested in understanding whether any of the remaining facilities being managed by the District could be reused for educational purposes.

As of September 2019, there are 70 formerly closed DCPS schools that continue to be owned by the city and managed by the DC Department of General Services (DGS) or are used for educational purposes, by either DC Public Schools (DCPS) or public charters.

More than half of the former DCPS buildings - 39 in total - are home to public charter schools (green text in the figure). In total, 34 public charter local education agencies (LEAs) operate a school in a former

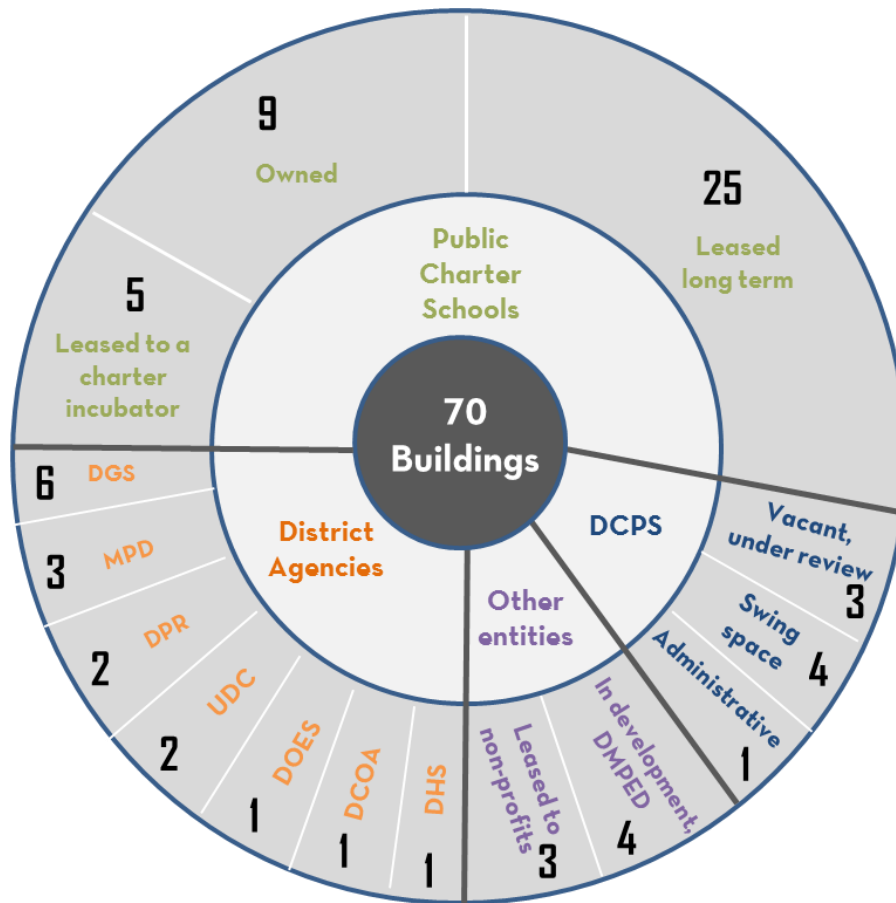
DCPS building (out of 62 charter LEAs citywide).

Per DC Official Code 38-1802.09, charter schools receive a “right of first offer” to buildings deemed as excess before they are disposed through any other means, such as for economic development.

DCPS uses another five of the formerly closed schools for temporary locations during periods of building renovation or for administrative purposes (blue text in the figure). When DCPS schools receive capital funding for renovations (referred to as “modernizations”), the students and staff of the school will temporarily relocate to “swing spaces” designated to accommodate them. These swing spaces located across the city are necessary to maintain the District’s robust school facility modernization efforts.

continued

Status of Previously Closed DCPS Buildings in Educational Use or Government Owned



District Agencies

Department of General Services (DGS)
Metropolitan Police Department (MPD)
Department of Parks & Recreations (DPR)

University of the District of Columbia (UDC)
Department of Employment Services (DOES)

DC Office on Aging (DCOA)
Department of Human Services (DHS)

Currently, three buildings are vacant and are not being used by other agencies or for any current educational purpose. DCPS is assessing if the three vacant facilities are needed in the future for programmatic growth, as new schools, or for opera-

tional needs such as swing space. The 2018 Master Facilities Plan estimates that DCPS could grow as much as 10,000 students based on population growth and enrollment patterns in the next 10 years.

Sources:

- [Citywide Landscape of Formerly Closed DCPS Facilities](#)
- [2018 Master Facilities Plan](#)

Feedback?

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