

DPS Alumni Engagement Initiative **PROCESS**

What is this work all about?

We're elevating the voice of the DPS constituents best positioned to share insights about their educational experience so that the next generation of students can thrive. The Denver Scholarship Foundation, with funding support from RootED, worked with over 170 recent alumni and current students during the summer of 2019 to identify priorities and develop policies that can meet the needs of all DPS students.

Timeline



July - August 2019
Education Stakeholder Interviews



July-September
Design Studios with alumni + current students



August
Alumni Survey



September - October
Alumni Delegates Prioritize and Refine Policies

Barriers to Transformation

1. Funding
2. Teacher turnover
3. Other responsibilities

Celebrate DPS "Bright Spots"

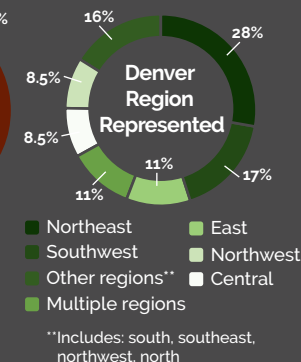
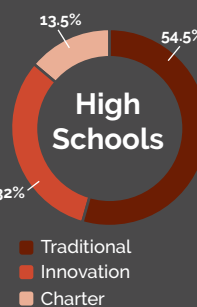
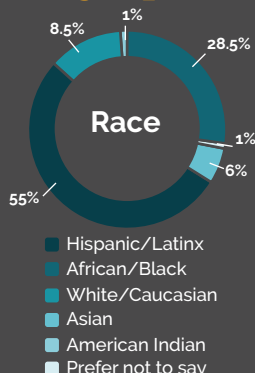
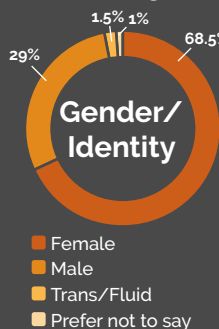
1. Academic programs
2. Counselors
3. Athletics

Design Studio + Alumni Survey **Demographics**

Number: 170 DSF alums (37 attended more than one session)
82 DPS alums responded to the survey

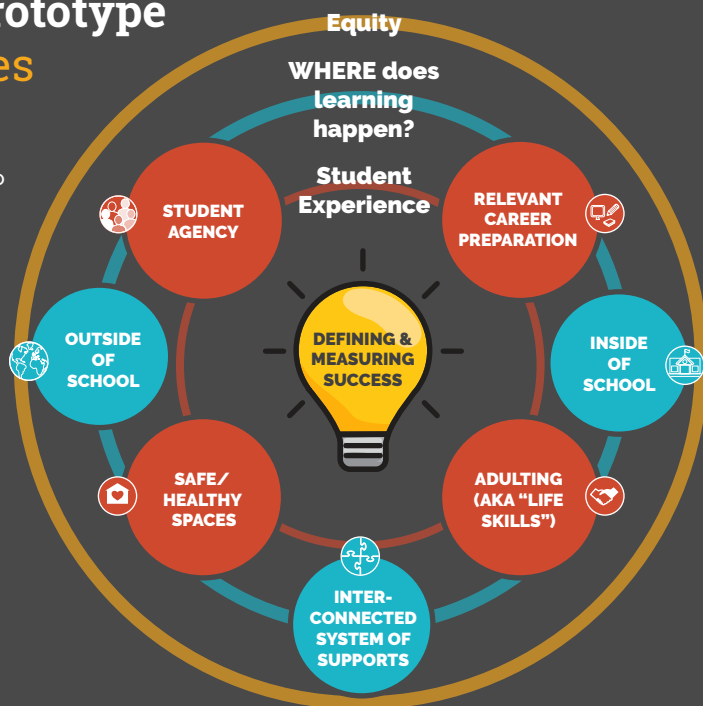
Age: Range = 17-30;
Average = 22

"In addition to the students represented in the demographic data, interviews were conducted with 20+ stakeholders from across the Denver ecosystem.



Key Prototype Themes

What kind of an education ecosystem do DPS alumni want for the next generation of students?



Civic Engagement Initiative Mentors

Civic and business leaders are providing key insights and supporting the alumni as they refine policy recommendations. This group represents the following organizations:

America Succeeds

Association of General Contractors
Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
DaVita

Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce
Denver Museum of Nature and Science
Denver Office of Children's Affairs
Denver Public Schools
Denver Scholarship Foundation
DPS Foundation
Mile High United Way
RootEd
Sage Restaurant Group
The Colorado Trust
United Airlines

DPS Alumni Engagement Initiative **RECOMMENDATIONS**

Emerging Recommendations

1

Define Success More Broadly

2

Be Willing to Share the Work (and Power)

3

Lean Into the Equity Dialogue

4

Set Fewer, Clearer & More Measurable Goals

5

Student Agency

6

Safe, Inclusive & (Mentally) Healthy Environments

7

Life Skills

8

More Relevant Career Prep

9

New Assessment Strategies

10

When & Where Learning Happens

Refined Policy Priorities

1

Define Success More Broadly

A broader definition of success can serve as the foundation for a new DPS graduate profile and will have implications for assessment and accountability practices.

2

Share the Power

There has to be greater representation of student voice in decisions made by DPS and it has to be meaningful. We need to ensure power sharing is authentic in all decisions so that opportunities and resources for an improved educational experience is provided equally to all communities in DPS.

3

Lean into Equity

Equity means recognizing, supporting and celebrating diversity and creating policies which reflect this ethos so that all DPS users [DPS students, families, and surrounding communities] should feel comfortable and feel they have a genuinely respected place and a voice.

4

Essential (Life) Skills

Students must be better prepared for the responsibilities and challenges of life after graduation. Real world expectations can be met through obtaining financial literacy, communication and collaborative skills better preparing students and imparting knowledge and experiences not otherwise taught in classrooms.

5

Relevant Career Preparation

Students need exposure and experience working "in the field" to gain the skills and knowledge they need to succeed in a chosen career. This will open students' minds to learning and help them nurture the need/drive to cultivate relevant knowledge.

*DPS alumni delegates and community mentors are continuing to refine this policy framework throughout fall 2019.