

December 3, 2019



TO: Interested Parties
FROM: ALG Research
RE: New Poll Finds Broad Support for Public Charter Schools in DC

A new poll of likely voters in Washington DC commissioned by Education Reform Now finds broad support for public charter schools in the city.¹ Below are some key findings from the poll.

- **Public charter schools are popular with DC voters.** A majority of DC voters (59%) have a favorable view of public charter schools, while just 27% view them unfavorably. These schools are popular with both Black (62% favorable) and White voters (58%), and especially popular with parents of school age children (66%).
- **DC voters want more public charter schools in the city.** Nearly two-thirds of DC voters (63%) support increasing the number of public charter schools in the city, as long as there are stricter accountability measures in place. Additionally, 67% of voters would like to see a public charter school open in their neighborhood.
- **Broad support for putting public charter schools in underutilized school buildings.** To help accommodate more public charter schools in the city, 63% of voters support using unused or underutilized DC school buildings to house public charter schools.
- **DC voters strongly support proposals to help at-risk students.** More than four-out-of-five voters (82%) support giving DC schools with more at-risk students more funding, 78% support allowing DC schools to set aside a certain number of seats for at-risk students, and 66% support giving preference to at-risk students in the DC school lottery.
- **The quality of DC schools is seen as on the rise.** By a 42-point margin (58% better / 16% worse), DC voters say that the quality of schools in the city has improved over the past few years. This sentiment is especially strong among parents, with 73% believing that DC schools have improved.
- **DC parents give high marks to their child's school.** More than three-out-of-four parents of a child in a DC school (79%) give their child's school a B or higher, with 43% giving their child's school an A grade.
- **Voters strongly approve of Mayor Bowser's job performance.** Two-thirds of DC voters (66%) approve of the job she is doing as mayor. She is equally popular with both Black (67% approve) and White voters (66%), and her job approval rating does not dip below 60% in any of the city's wards.
- **There is broad support for mayoral control of public schools.** Following a description of the term, 63% of DC voters support mayoral control for DC public schools.

¹ ALG Research conducted a poll of N=700 likely voters in DC (N=600 citywide plus N=50 oversamples of likely voters in Wards 7 & 8) November 14-19, 2019. 66% of interviews were conducted by cell phone. The poll's margin of error is +/- 4.0%.