



*The Denver Plan 2020 is the Denver Public Schools' five-year strategic plan. With the vision of Every Child Succeeds, we are committed to five goals designed to close academic achievement gaps and prepare all students for success in college and careers. Among these goals is Support for the Whole Child.*

### **What is the goal?**

We know our students can't succeed if they come to school hungry, are worried about bullying or are disengaged in the classroom. That's why DPS is leading the nation in focusing our efforts and attention around Whole Child supports – because we know, and research shows, it will not only improve academic outcomes, but is critical to achieving our vision that Every Child Succeeds.

In DPS, we are committed to providing equitable and inclusive environments where we ensure students are Healthy, Supported, Engaged, Challenged, Safe, and Socially and Emotionally Intelligent. Our schools will encourage students to pursue their passions and interests, support their physical health and strengthen social-emotional skills they need to succeed, including managing emotions, establishing and maintaining positive relationships, and making responsible decisions.

### **What area(s) are we focused on to achieve these increases?**

Supporting the Whole Child is about putting students first, aligning resources to students' needs, and transforming student experience in DPS. DPS has launched four interrelated tools to support our schools in their support of the Whole Child:

- PLAN: Whole Child, Healthy Child Agenda 2020 – our roadmap outlining objectives and key performance metrics



- **SUPPORT IMPLEMENTATION:** Whole Child Resource Bank – school-level planning tools to support consistent and equitable implementation districtwide
- **MEASURE SUCCESS:** Whole Child Student Survey – to continually evaluate our progress and success
- **ENSURE ACCOUNTABILITY:** School Unified Improvement Plans – embedding a Whole Child focus into the action plans for every DPS school

## What specific things are we doing to make progress this year?

The first Whole Child Student Survey data was released this school year. We developed the student survey to measure and track how our schools are performing on each of the six components of the Whole Child. We are one of the first districts in the nation to attempt to define our Whole Child focus and to gather data that shows whether our students are making progress in these critical areas. We know we won't reach our district vision of Every Child Succeeds without this focus. Our districtwide results have given school leaders the tools they need to inform their school planning efforts and focus their resources in critical areas.

The survey data brings new insights into how our students are experiencing school. Key districtwide outcomes resulting from this data include:

- Confirmation that the link between Whole Child factors and success in school is strong – students who reported strong Whole Child outcomes were more likely to meet academic expectations.
- Identification of schools with particularly strong Whole Child outcomes so that we can emulate their practices in other schools. Schools that worked to intentionally set a school culture that prioritizes and develops strong individual relationships with students had particularly strong outcomes for African-American, Latino and low-income students.
- Highlighting critical areas for us to focus our supports – including bullying, chronic absenteeism and out-of-school suspension disparities.

## How can you learn more or get involved?

Partner with us to achieve the Whole Child Healthy Child Agenda objectives. There are many ways you can support this work in our schools. Visit [www.wholechild.dpsk12.org](http://www.wholechild.dpsk12.org) to learn more.

### For More Information:

*For communications assistance in support of this Denver Plan goal, contact Policy Communications Specialist Nathan Watters at [nathan\\_watters@dpsk12.org](mailto:nathan_watters@dpsk12.org).*

