

# STRENGTHENING NEIGHBORHOODS INITIATIVE - STEERING COMMITTEE

## Where Are We Starting?

After much discussion, the [Strengthening Neighborhoods Committee](#) overwhelmingly approved a number of thoughtful and impactful [recommendations](#) in December 2017 about how to strengthen integration.

These recommendations include:

- Giving underrepresented students greater priority in the school choice system.
- Increasing the use of community enrollment zones to generate greater socio-economic diversity.
- Expanding the role of families and communities through support structures that build trust, increase engagement and provide authentic feedback.
- Using existing data and identifying new data to measure school culture and climate, including non-academic aspects of equity.



## What is the Work?

The Strengthening Neighborhoods Committee recommended that DPS form a Steering Committee that will:

- **ADVISE:** Provide guidance to DPS on key decisions and opportunities to deepen partnerships.
- **CONNECT:** Serve as advocates and ambassadors for the work with communities and collaborating organizations.
- **REPORT:** Present regular updates to the Denver Board of Education on progress.

We expect to form a 40-person standing committee that will span the first several years of Strengthening Neighborhoods implementation. There will be approximately four meetings per year, along with additional opportunities to be involved in community processes.

We are seeking parents, community members, school staff members and students to serve on the committee who reflect the racial, socio-economic and geographic diversity of our city.

## Why Is This Important?

In DPS, we believe that students and families thrive when they have high-quality education choices. The top goal in the Denver Plan – DPS’ five-year strategic plan – is to have great schools in every neighborhood.

DPS is committed to providing high-quality schools in every community that serve students from a diverse range of socio-economic backgrounds. Research has shown that socio-economically integrated schools help all students achieve academic success and also play a vital role in sustaining vibrant neighborhoods.



### Additional Information:

To learn more, or to find the application to serve on the committee, please contact Dustin Kress at [Dustin.Kress@dpsk12.org](mailto:Dustin.Kress@dpsk12.org) or visit our website at [dpsk12.org/neighborhoods](http://dpsk12.org/neighborhoods).