

Tony Curcio for School Board

CHILDREN + PARENTS + TEACHERS = QUALITY EDUCATION

As a father of three and a person who is actively committed to the betterment of our public schools, I feel there is no "one most important thing" to quality education. The winning combination includes kids, parents and teachers. As a school board member I'll help ensure that DPS is accountable to all three. DPS must provide excellent schools that:

1. Prepare each child for success after graduating from DPS, whether the child decides to enter the work force or continue his or her education at the college or university level.
2. Better educate the children currently in DPS classrooms.
3. Encourage parents and students to stay in DPS. If families have "choiced out" of DPS, encourage them to come back to their neighborhood schools.

Over the years, I have had conversations with parents in Denver that revealed several qualities as being important to education concerns throughout DPS. DPS must:

Create a culture of learning that leverages relationships and strong communication between administrators, teachers, parents and the community. All parents, no matter their own educational, socioeconomic or other background, value a good education for their children.

Provide a learning environment that promotes safety and security for all children.

Support teachers and encourage innovative teaching, by providing access to the resources and training needed to further teachers' professional skills.

Offer a well balanced curriculum including visual art, music, math, science, social studies and second language study, with a goal of aiding achievement and higher student graduation rates.

Build on the cultural diversity of our neighborhoods, because the strength of our schools reflects the strength of communities, and every student deserves a welcoming place in school.

Support families by offering early childhood education and before- and after-school programs. This includes the availability of full-day, tuition-free kindergarten, and access to Denver's Early Childhood Education program.

Verify fiscal accountability and confirm that DPS is getting fair per pupil operating revenue, because taxpayers deserve a guaranteed fair value for their financial contributions to public education.

Increase high school graduation rates to preserve our investment in DPS and protect Denver's economic climate and per capita income in the long run.

Market schools to communities by leveraging the contributions and energy of parents, staff and administrators who have a direct impact on our children's education and well being.

Join me in the quest for excellent schools!