

Resources for the District of Columbia

The following providers and services can serve as resources while schools in the District of Columbia engage in a school climate improvement process. This is not an exhaustive list of supports, organizations, and community efforts in DC. Rather, it is a list of groups that the Community Advisory Board (CAB) or individual schools have found supportive over the course of the Improving School Climate in DC project.

Youth organizations that provide programming in schools and after school:

- **Restorative DC.** Many schools in DC are part of the Office of the State Superintendent of Education Restorative Justice program. For more information about the supports and services available, visit <http://www.restoratedc.org/> or call 202-907-6887.
- **Black Swan** empowers black youth in underserved communities through civic leadership and engagement, giving them a comprehensive set of tools needed to succeed in life and become active social catalysts in their communities. For more information, visit <https://blackswanacademy.org/>
- **Many Languages One Voice (MLOV)** is an immigrant-led and immigrant-based movement organization, building power within the District of Columbia through community organizing, advocacy, partnerships, and outreach and story collection. For more information, visit <http://www.mlovdc.org/> or call 202-838-MLOV (6568).
- **Latin American Youth Center's (LAYC)** mission is to empower a diverse population of youth to achieve a successful transition to adulthood, through multicultural, comprehensive, and innovative programs that address youths' social, academic, and career needs. For more information, visit <https://www.layc-dc.org/> or call 202-319-2225.
- **Critical Exposure** trains DC youth to harness the power of photography and their own voices to fight for educational equity and social justice. For more information, visit <https://criticalexposure.org/> or call 202-986-2177.

About This Series

From 2016 to 2020, a group of public schools and public charter schools in Washington, DC participated in the "Improving School Climate in DC" project (ISC-DC). ISC-DC was supported by a grant from the National Institutes of Justice (NIJ) under the Comprehensive School Safety Initiative, and aimed to evaluate whether supporting schools through a research-based framework (Safe School Certification; SSC) could improve students' perceptions of school climate and reduce incidents of violence. SSC is not a structured program; rather, the framework consists of eight key elements that underscore a data-based decision-making and program implementation process: leadership, data, buy-in, policy and policy enforcement, student engagement, parent and community engagement, training, and programs. As part of the process, key stakeholders and experts formed an independent Certification Advisory Board (CAB) to assess schools' progress in achieving key milestones for each component, provide feedback, and provide opportunities to obtain grant funding. The CAB had a birds-eye view of what schools were doing and how they found innovative ways to achieve each element, and of the common struggles and pitfalls that schools faced. The CAB also focused on ensuring that schools' efforts were grounded within an equity lens to ensure that all students would benefit. This educator tipsheet is based on the CAB's review of workbooks schools submitted through the process of completing Safe School Certification. It should be noted that these briefs do not necessarily reflect the findings of the more rigorous implementation study conducted by Child Trends, but rather reflect our learning through our review of workbooks.



- **Break the Cycle** inspires and supports young people ages 12 to 24 to build healthy relationships and create a culture without abuse. The organization is culturally affirming and centers young people, caring adults, and communities in its prevention and intervention efforts. Please visit <https://www.breakthecycle.org/> or call 202-849-6289.
- **SMYAL**. Through youth leadership, SMYAL creates opportunities for LGBTQ youth to build self-confidence, develop critical life skills, and engage their peers and community through service and advocacy. For more information, visit <https://smyal.org/> or call 202-546-5940.

Parent support programs

- **Advocates for Justice and Education (AJE)** is the parent training and resource center for DC. AJE is committed to ensuring that all children receive a high-quality education and the full range of health, social, and ancillary supports to which they are entitled. For more information, visit <http://www.aje-dc.org/> or call 202-678-8060.
- **Kindred** builds trusting relationships between parents of diverse backgrounds and supports them to work with school leadership to drive equity and diversity in their schools and communities. Visit <https://kindredcommunities.org/>.

Programs for schools

- **Playworks** helps schools and youth programs create healthy play environments where every child can join in. Call 202-822-0097 or visit <https://www.playworks.org/greater-washington-dc/>.
- **Peace of Mind** is a teacher-created, evidence-based program that supports mindfulness-based social and emotional learning in PreK through grade 6. The Peace of Mind program helps children develop life skills to notice and manage challenging emotions, build healthy relationships, and solve conflicts peacefully. Peace of Mind moves schools toward kindness and inclusion. Visit <https://teachpeaceofmind.org/>.

Race equity training

- **Teaching for Change** provides teachers and parents with the tools to create schools where students learn to read, write, and rethink the world to build a more equitable, multicultural society. For more information, call 202-588-7204 or visit <https://www.teachingforchange.org/>.
- **Equity Lab** seeks to disrupt racial and ethnic inequity by engaging organizations in issues of race, equity, diversity, and inclusion (REDI). Visit <https://www.theequitylab.org/>.
- **Two Brown Girls Consulting** helps organizations transform at the individual, group, and institutional levels. For more information, visit <http://2brwngirls.com/> or call 641-715-3900, ext. 487570.

Mental health supports

Through the Department of Behavioral Health (DBH), many schools are receiving the services of a school-based clinician and the support of a nonprofit partner. If your school has a partnership, please engage directly with that provider to see what is available for your students and community. If you do not have a partnership, the following represent potential partners with different programs that meet different needs. Take time to talk to organizations about your needs and their approach.

- **One Common Unity** breaks cycles of violence and builds compassionate, healthy communities through the transformative power of music, arts, and peace education. For more information, visit <https://onecommonunity.org/> or call 202-765-3757.
- **Wendt Center** is a premier resource for restoring hope and healthy functioning to adults, teens, and children who are coping with grief, loss, and trauma in the Greater Washington region. For more information, visit <https://www.wendtcenter.org/> or call 202-624-0010.
- **Safe Shores** is dedicated to working with and advocating for children and adolescents affected by trauma and violence and provides training and supports. For more information, visit <https://www.safeshores.org/> or call 202-671-7233.
- **Mary Center** uses a holistic model that combines medical, dental, and behavioral health services for the entire family, along with social services and family literacy services—all under one roof. For more information, visit <https://www.maryscenter.org/> or call 202-483-8196.
- **Community Connections'** core purpose is to provide behavioral health, residential services, and primary health care coordination to women, men, and children who are coping with mental illness, addiction, and the aftermath of trauma and abuse. For more information, visit <https://www.communityconnectionsdc.org/> or call 202-546-1512.
- **Collaborative Solutions For Community** (formerly Columbia Heights–Shaw collaborative) is a DC-based organization committed to helping families and neighborhoods realize a brighter future through engagement and support. For more information, visit <https://www.wearecsc.org/> or call 202-518-6737.
- **Far South East Collaborative** has worked to tackle some of our community's toughest issues, while building the capacity of residents and organizations to do the same. For more information, visit <http://www.fsfsc.org/> or call 202-889-1425.
- **Georgia Ave Collaborative** programs are designed to provide supportive services and linkages to youth, families, and residents to prevent the occurrence of child abuse and neglect. Call (202) 722-1815 or visit <https://gafsc-dc.org/>.
- **East of the River** empowers families, youth, seniors, and communities to become more self-sufficient through collaborative community-based services that integrate family-focused and person-centered evidence-based practices. Please call 202-397-7300 to find more information, or visit <https://www.erfsc.org/>.
- **Edgewood Brookland Family Support Collaborative** is one of five neighborhood-based collaboratives in the District of Columbia, which make up the citywide Healthy Families, Thriving Communities Collaborative network. Visit <https://ebfsc.org/>.