

PUBLIC SCHOOLS WE CAN BELIEVE IN

EDUCATION

As a member of the Council's Committee on Education, **I have worked to ensure that every child has a high quality, by-right, neighborhood public school.** In Ward 6, neighborhood elementary schools are growing and thriving, but work remains to make sure parents see the full path of quality public school education – from pre-K through high school graduation. As Councilmember, my education priorities are:

- **Modernizing Our Schools:** Added over \$200 million to modernize Ward 6 neighborhood schools, and accelerated numerous school modernizations that had previously been delayed. Renovated fields and playgrounds across the Ward to increase community access to public recreation areas.
- **Funding Our Schools:** Restored funding cuts to important education programs like early literacy grants, and when last year's proposed education budget would have forced our schools to cut staff, worked to double the per pupil funding increase from 1.5% to 3.0%, putting needed resources back in the classroom.
- **Closing the Achievement Gap:** Created the Books From Birth program, which has delivered more than 450,000 books to 30,000 District children ages 0-5, focusing on family literacy to prevent the achievement gap by closing the "word gap" early on. Working to reduce suspensions and expulsions, which disproportionately affect students of color and create barriers to achievement.
- **Supporting Our Students:** Working to ensure students are supported in the classroom and beyond. Fought to enact and fund Special Education reforms, working to increase out-of-school time funding for afterschool and summer care.
- **Safe and Healthy Schools:** Co-introduced bill requiring a fulltime nurse in every public school, pushed DCPS to improve school meal quality, and sounded the alarm about test results showing lead in drinking water in our public schools. Co-authored legislation that is a national model requiring filtering and monitoring.
- **Strong Public Library System:** Secured over \$30 million to fully modernize both the Southwest and Southeast Neighborhood Libraries. Worked to restore cuts to book purchase budget and to increase evening and weekend hours.