

# Fifth Annual Graduation Pathways Summit

There Is More Than One  
Path To Graduation

Oct. 29, 2018



#GradPathways



<https://vimeo.com/284637317>

*“So don't call us anything that starts with a deficit.*

*Call us **scholars**.*

*Call us **leaders**.*

*Call us **change**.*

*Call us **trees**.*

*And discover what happens  
when you decide to **water a seed**.”*



# What is Raise DC?

Raise DC's **mission** is to spur citywide action to improve educational outcomes for DC's children and youth, from cradle to career:





# Creating Change

- Fill gaps
- Scale what works
- Sustain efforts over time

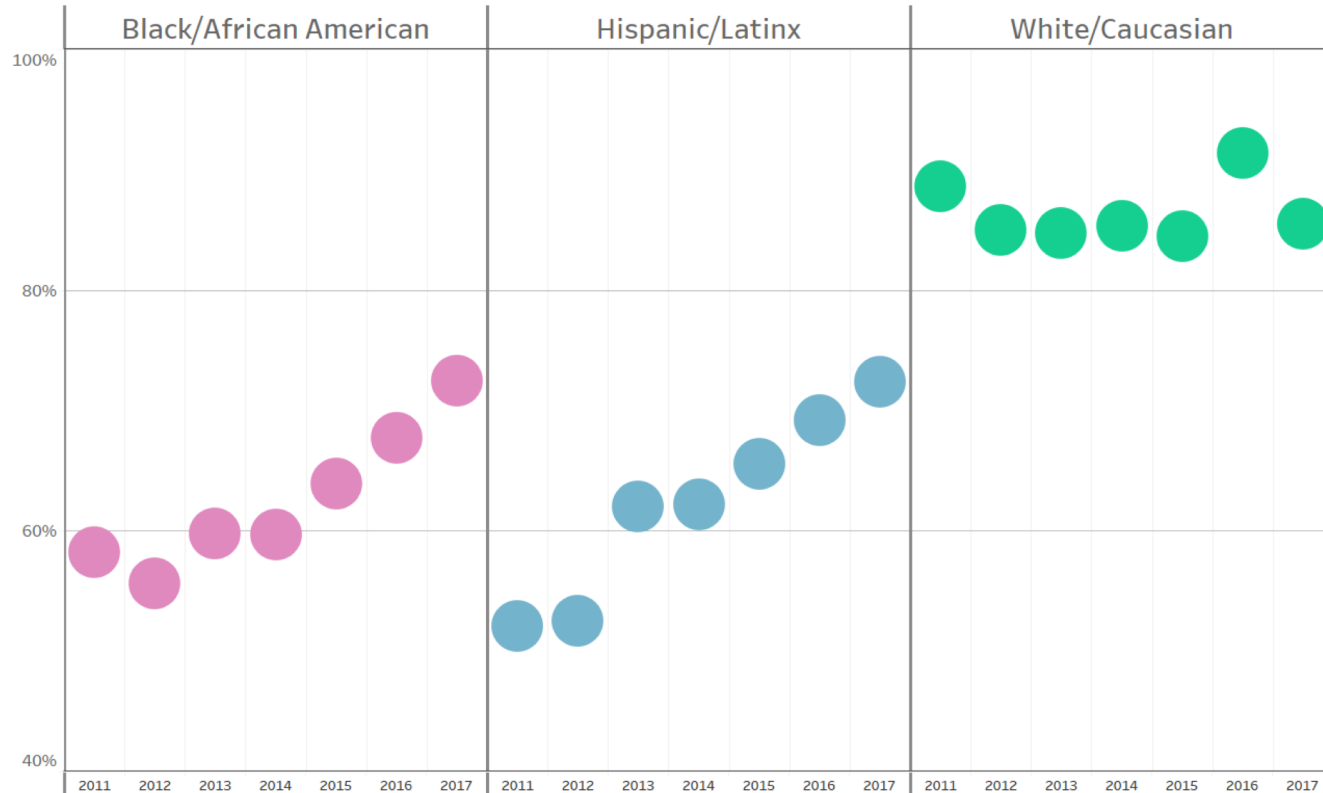


- 250 partners
- 5 shared goals

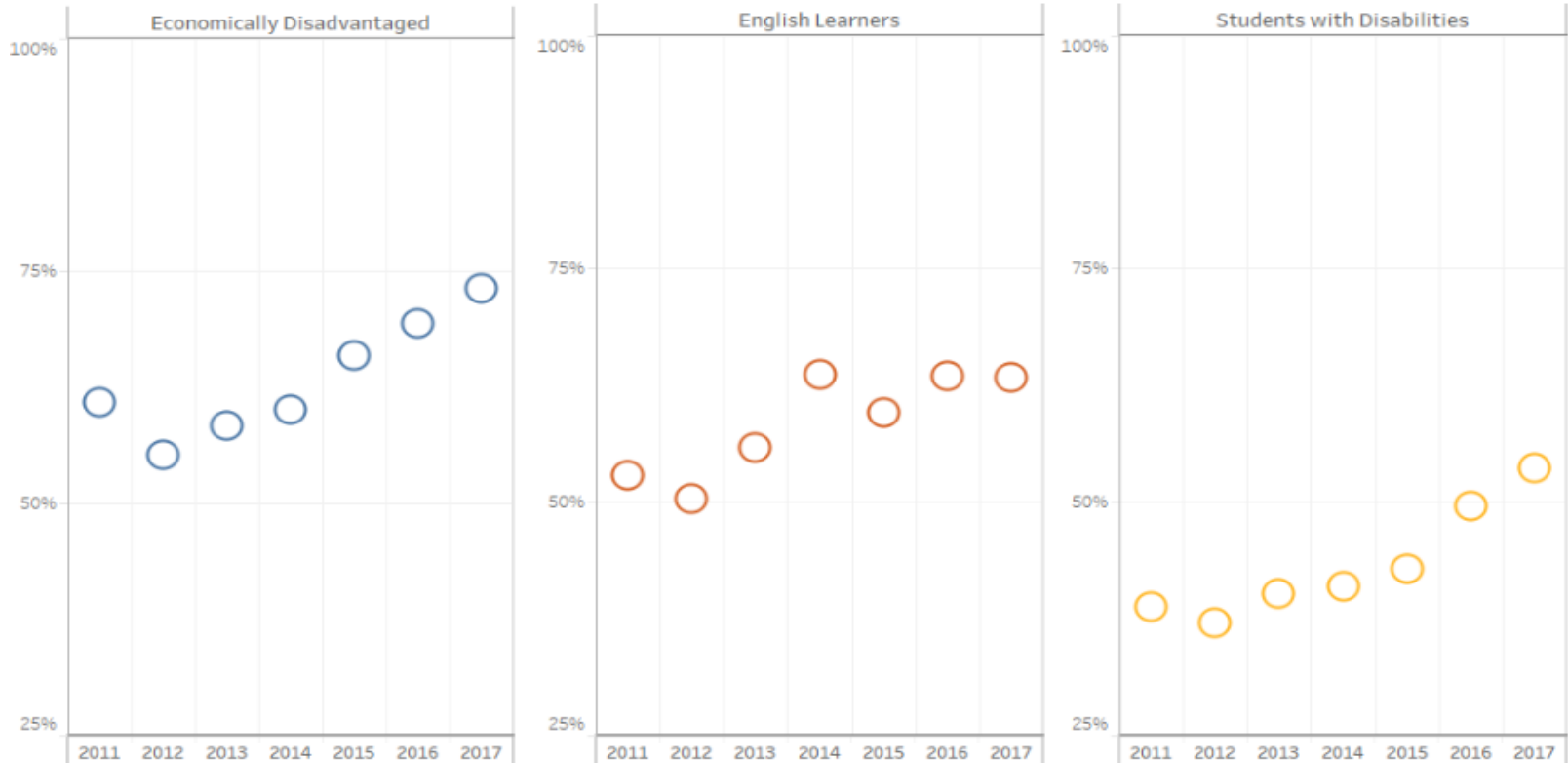
- Planning
- Policy
- Practice

- National research
- Local data
- Voice

# Four-Year Graduation by Race/Ethnicity



# Four-Year Graduation by Demographic Factors



# Raise DC's Graduation Pathways Project

Spur and sustain citywide action to ensure students:

- Start high school on the **RIGHT** foot
- **RECOVER** if they've fallen off track
- **RECONNECT** if they've dropped out/stopped out

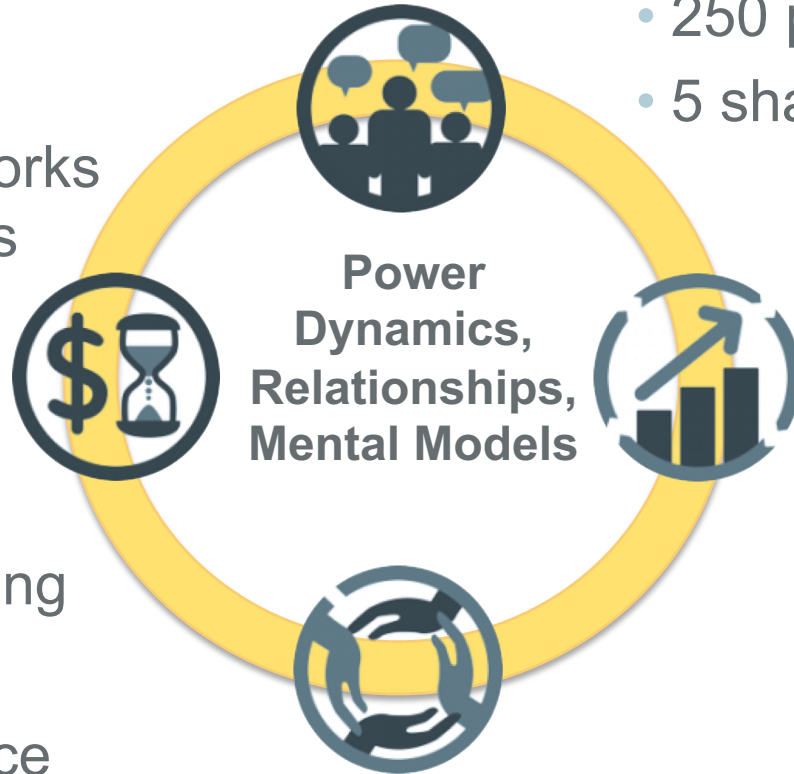
# Goals of Today's Summit

Yearly unification moment for schools, education leaders, and other critical stakeholders:

1. **Share progress** on citywide efforts to improve high school graduation rate
2. **Disseminate** new information to drive individual and collective efforts
3. **Build effective strategies, policies, and mindsets** to build stronger pathways to graduation for specific groups of off-track students

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Keynote Address

**Broderick D.  
Johnson**



# Today's Schedule

- 10:15 a.m.** Break/transition
- 10:30 a.m.** Workshops
- 12:15 p.m.** Break/transition
- 12:30 p.m.** Lunch, Education Executive panel
- 1:30 p.m.** Workshop report-outs
- 1:45 p.m.** Closing remarks

# Workshops

**Workshop A:** Empowering students in the high school selection process (Bloomberg Room)

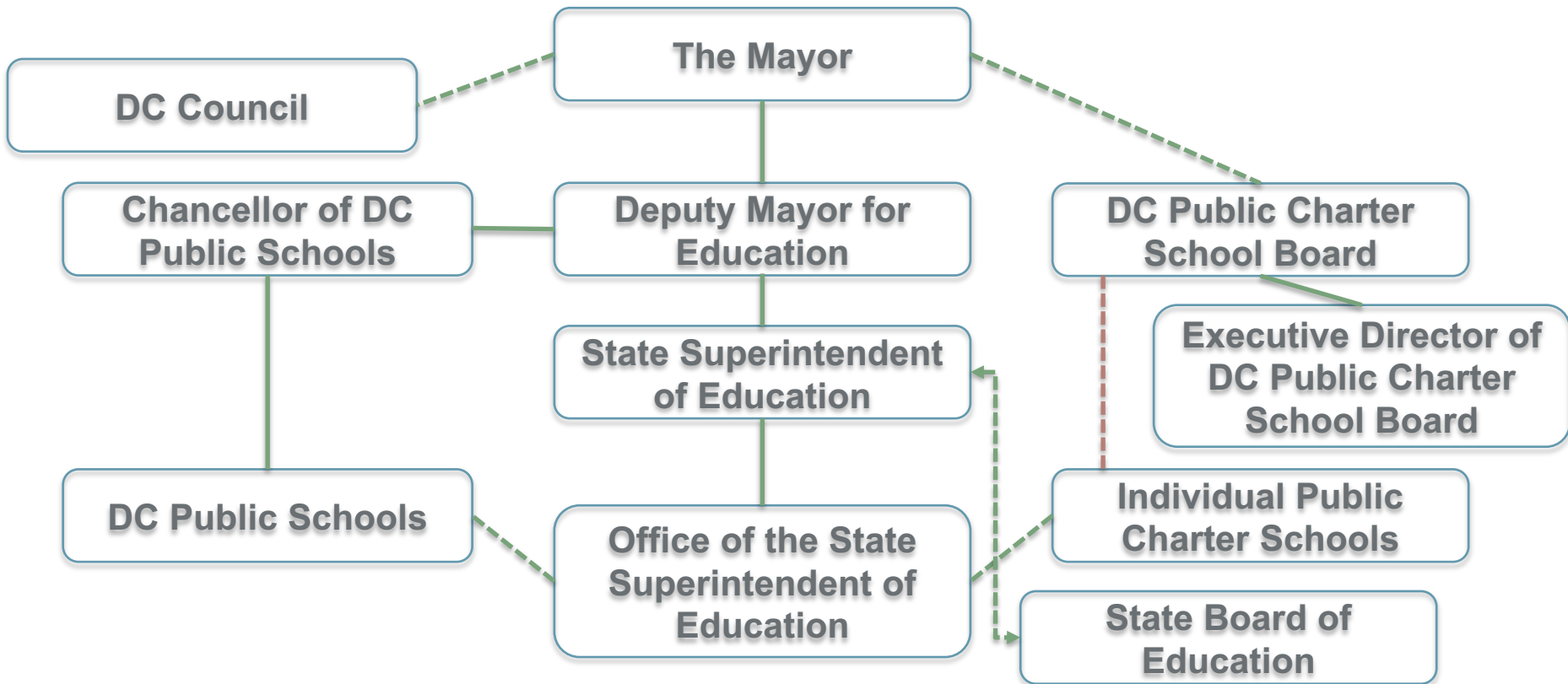
**Workshop B:** Rethinking how secondary schools engage families (West Room)

**Workshop C:** Disrupting unjust systems by confronting our own mental models (East Room)



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# DC Public Education Leadership



*Adapted graphic, courtesy of DC School Reform Now*

# The State of Graduation in DC

**Moderator: Maura Marino**

CEO, Education Forward DC

**Amanda Alexander**

Interim Chancellor, DC Public Schools

**David Grosso**

Chair of the Committee on Education, Council of DC

**Hanseul Kang**

Superintendent, Office of the State Superintendent of Education

**Paul Kihn**

Acting Deputy Mayor, Office of the Deputy Mayor for Education

**Scott Pearson**

Executive Director, DC Public Charter School Board



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# Workshop A: Empowering Students in the High School Selection Process

## Core themes:

- Easier access to information for students, families, school personnel, and community partners
- School selection process should be a partnership with students, parents/families and schools – student/family empowerment
- Enrollment process is difficult to navigate

## Opportunities/next steps:

- Centralized location of information and resources – sharing of school narrative for all stakeholders
- All stakeholders should be working together to inform and support students/families (Schools, OSSE, PCSB, DCPS) – student/family friendly process/timeline
- Identify current resources & provide support where needed, i.e. MS/HS schools and community partners



# Workshop B: Rethinking How Secondary Schools Engage Families

## Core themes:

- Check biases and assumptions; align with reality
- Not all families are the same (need for differentiation)
- Think asset-based, not deficit-based

## Opportunities/next steps:

- Clear, concise, informative, and actionable communications with a two-generational approach (parent & student input)
- More learning activities for relationship building (school -> family; family -> family, etc.)
- Collaborate and use resources that work (asset mapping)

# Workshop C: Disrupting Unjust Systems by Confronting Our Own Mental Models

## Core themes:

- How do we create spaces to learn and continue conversations around race and equity outside of trainings/summits?
- How do we ensure these conversations include staff, students, communities, and not just simply circles of homogeneity?
- How can we use data to challenge assumptions and reflect on our behavior about race and equity?
- How do we balance teaching “life lessons” (reality of race & equity) with kids and simultaneously seek to disrupt the system?

## Opportunities/next steps:

- Become more knowledgeable about equity and related data; explore the why
- Gather activities and tools to facilitate this conversation beyond this session
- Network with like-minded educators to gather ideas and resources; build a coalition

Plug into the  
Graduation Pathways  
Project

Thank you for  
joining us!

[RaiseDC.org](https://RaiseDC.org)

[#GradPathways](https://twitter.com/GradPathways)