Laura Fuchs

Philosophy of Education

As a social studies teacher it is my role to empower my students to take charge of their education, become engaged citizens and think critically about the world around them. Social Studies is a subject where students learn to analyze humanity's role in place and time; ask the 'bigger' questions about why the world is the way it is and to challenge their assumptions. In my class students begin to develop their own opinions and solutions to the issues that affect both their own lives and the world at large. My first priority is to build relationships with my students by providing a stimulating and safe environment. At the same time, we build the reading, writing, analytical and literacy skills that they will need to succeed in life as engaged citizens, be it on a college or career track.

Philosophy of Leadership

I believe that true leadership stems from democracy and empowering and enabling those around you to make decisions and take ownership of change. Leaders should serve as facilitators of this process and inform and empower others to be a part of making all important decisions. This requires consistent and clear communication as well as highly adept organizing skills to ensure that all voices are heard in a safe an efficient manner.

Education

The George Washington University, Washington, DC Graduated August 2013

Specialist Degree, Education Administration and Leadership

American University, Washington, DC Graduated August 2009

Masters of Arts in Teaching, Secondary Social Studies

University of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois Graduated June 2007

Bachelors of Arts, Political Science with Honors

Dean's List 2003-2007, Study Abroad: South Africa, Human Rights Internship: Guatemala

Teaching Experience

HD Woodson Senior High School, Washington, D.C. Public Schools 2007-Present

School Level Leadership

- ❖ WTU Building Representative 2016-17, 2021-2024
- Alternate Building Representative WTU 2013-16,
- ❖ Local School Advisory Team Member 2010-2024,
- School Chapter Advisory Committee 2010-2024,
- ❖ Personnel Committee Member 2013-2016 and 2019-2024
- Social Studies Department Chair 2010-16, Teacher Leadership Initiative (2012-2013)
- ❖ Advanced Placement Coordinator 2013-2024
- Created the Master Schedule using a collaborative process across the departments (2012, 2014)
- Collaborated with Assistant Principal to create the HD Woodson Teacher-Handbook (2013-16)
- Participated in selection panel for AP US Government Textbook for DC Public Schools (2014)
- HD Woodson Principal Interview Panel (2012, 2018)
- ❖ HD Woodson Parent Teacher's Association Member, (2012-2017), Secretary
- Senior Committee 2014-2019, Prom Committee 2016-2017
- ❖ Black Lives Matter Week of Action Planner (2018-2019, 2023)

Teaching Awards

- "Most Inspirational Teacher" for HD Woodson in DCPS (2014)
- Ward 7 Education Council: Award for Outstanding Teaching (2009)

DCPS Accolades

- Voicemail from DC Government
- Personal Congratulations from DCPS Chancellor Amanda Alexander regarding We The People National Competition (2017)
- FCBA Foundation Awards Publication Sean Tollar explains AP US History and AP US Government inspired him for the future (2015)

Courses Taught

- World History I, 2007-2008
- World History II, 2007-2011, 2017-2020
- AP U.S. Government, 2010-Present, Zero Period 2014-2015
- Principles of US Government 2007-2008, 2014-2017, 2020-Present
- DC History, 2007, 2010-Present
- U.S. History 2009-2014
- ❖ AP US History, 2013-2014
- Constitutional Law, 2010-Present
- Street Law (partnered with Georgetown), 2013-2014
- **Economics**, 2009-2010
- Psychology 2009-2010
- Entrepreneurship 2009-2010
- Community Service 2018-2019
- Student Government Association, 2015-2018

Teaching Practices

- Classroom Practice: Engage students utilizing self-created standards-based curriculum emphasizing thematic teaching, student choice, current events, social justice, primary source documents, and activities such as debate, simulations, mock trials, extended essays (5-15 pages), in-class writing, movies, collaborative work, vocabulary and discussion. Students keep extensive and organized binders in the course.
- City-Wide Competitions: We The People Competition (Citywide 2nd Place 2016, 1st Place 2017-2020 National Competition 2019), Mikva Challenge: Project Soapbox (2015-2020), Model United Nations, Mock Oral Argument Competition (2011-Present), YMCA Legislative Weekend (2011-2018)
- ❖ Field Trips: 30 Minute private meeting with Supreme Court Justice Elana Kagan (2016), Various Community Service Projects, National Archives to conduct research (2014, 2015), Interview with Luci Baines Johnson (2014), Logged over 100 Hours campaigning with student volunteers for Presidential Elections in VA (2012) & PA (2016), 1776 Play (2012), Choosing to Participate Exhibit (2011), US Capitol Building & Visit with Eleanor Holmes Norton (2011), National Youth Summit: Freedom Riders (2011), Holocaust Memorial Museum 30-80 students (2008-2012, 2018-2019), Gilder Lehrman Hamilton Education Experience 80 students (2018)
- Classroom Speakers: Brought in classroom speakers such as the Director of Youth and Government DC, Lawyers from around the city (2009-Present), Congressman Tom Petri (Wisconsin) (2016), Female Re-Enactors from the Civil War Museum (2011), Terrence Roberts of the Little Rock Nine (2011),
- Classroom Programs Used: Design Curriculum using a wide variety of practices and programs: Peacebuilders (US Institute of Peace), Project Based Learning (PBL), Understanding by Design (UBD), 5 E Lessons.
- Student Activism and Advocacy: South Carolina Primary Canvassing with Student (Emilio Flores) with Mikva Challenge DC (2020), Student Representative on SBOE (Tallya Rhodes) provided support, transportation and attended most meetings with her (2017-2018), Mikva Challenge Action Civics Institute (2017), DC Student Union (2016-2017), 6 different Students Testified at DC Constitution Conventions (2016), Bring 5-15 students regularly to Ward 7 Education Council Monthly Meeting,

Empower DC Youth Organizing Work – Brought 15 students to weekly organizing meetings with Empower DC to save public schools from closure (2012),

Programs

ACT/SAT Tutoring and Preparation

2010-2014

Taught classes and provided individual tutoring for students upon request.

Student Government Association and Activist Club 2010-2014

Led students at the school with special clubs and activities upon request. Students organized protests to save our school from privatization as well as advocated for our budgets.

Social Studies Cornerstones & SAGE Item Developer 2015

Selected to create DCPS Cornerstones assignment for 10th grade World History II. Worked in partnership with another teacher to create a Paideia seminar and second assessment for entire district.

Mikva Challenge Teacher

2015-2022

Integrated the Project Soapbox and Action Civics elements into the US Government and Student Government Classrooms.

Aspen Challenge Team Coach

2014-2016

Coached two teams through the Aspen Challenge Competition. Students created and presented on projects fostering peace in the community and building relationships between youth and police.

Debate Team Coach

2009-2012, 2015-2016

Attend, coach and judge Saturday competitions held throughout DCPS. Part of DC Urban Debate League leadership in making decisions for how to run competitions.

Ford's Theater Society Wal-Mart Oratory Fellow

2011-2012

One of 6 teachers selected to participate in a national program, collaborated monthly to develop curriculum. Students wrote and performed civil rights speeches with a final event at Ford's Theater. Had visiting artists who came to the class to help student create and perform oratory projects. Top students performed citywide as part of a national program.

YMCA Youth and Government

2011-2018

Integrated the YMCA Youth and Government curriculum into the AP Government class having students write and present legislation at a student Legislative Weekend with students from around DC. Students stay in a hotel, present their bills in committee, elect classmates to serve as DC Council Members and DC State Board of Education Members, vote and pass legislation. Had students win Best Legislation Award,

Critical Exposure 2011-2014

Established a partnership and integrated Critical Exposure's curriculum into the US History classroom. Includes students to using photography to connect US history to solving a problem in their daily lives. Regular professional development. Visiting photographers who work weekly with students to create photographic display projects. See Washington Post Article from two alumni:

https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/dc-students-use-photography-to-protest-school-security/2013/04/04/e32bef48-8b44-11e2-9838-d62f083ba93f story.html

Mock Oral Argument Program

2011-Present

Integrated the Historical Society of the United States Court of Appeals for the DC Circuit to bring lawyers into my AP Government class to train students for a competition before Federal Court of Appeals Justices.

Global Classrooms DC: Model United Nations

2009-2016 (When teaching World History II)

Taught entire World History II class in Model United Nations procedure and aided students in performing country research to participate in GCDC's Model United Nations program at the U.S. Department of State

Education and Community Leadership and Advocacy

WTU's Executive Board, Secretary 2019-Present,

Elected to the WTU Executive Board as the Secretary of the Washington Teachers' Union. Take detailed minutes and provide them in a prompt manner to the organization. Maintain records of the organization including taking attendance for large meetings, establishing a quorum, running roll call votes, writing up committee reports and more. Ran effective zoom meetings with over 800 members, assisting the WTU President with quorum calls, calls to order, running the stack, keeping time, managing the questions in the chat and more.

WTU's Executive Board, High School Member At-Large 2016-2019

Elected to the Executive Board of the Washington Teacher's Union. Attend and carry out internal union policies and serve on the Personnel and Restructuring Committee.

WTU Committees served on:

- Personnel Committee (2016-2022) Hiring ED, Communications,
- Bylaws Committee (2016-Present)
- Communications Committee (2018-Present)
- Organizing Committee (2019-Present)
- Finance Committee (2016-Present)
- Parent and Community Relations Committee (2017-2018)

WTU Taskforces served on:

- Save Washington Metropolitan High School (2019-2020)
- ❖ Drafting the WTU Memorandum of Agreement (2020)
- ❖ WTU Chancellor Selection Task Force (2018)
- ❖ Repeal and Replace IMPACT Task Force (2018-2020)
- Union Leadership Institute Planning (2017)
- Community Schools Task Force (2017)
- ❖ Shared Vision Conference Planning (2017-2018)
- Chancellor Selection Task Force (2016)
- WTU Contract Action Team (2015)
- Community Schools (2014)

WTU's Committee on Political Education Committee Chair 2014-2022

Elected to chair the political action committee of the Washington Teacher's Union. Chair weekly and monthly standing meetings. Facilitated the creation and implementation of a member driven and run candidate endorsement and campaign process that is still being used.

- 2014-2022 Facilitated a team of 5-20 to create a candidate endorsement process.
- 2014-Present Planned and facilitated interview of all DC Democratic Primary and General Election Candidates

Chancellors Teachers Cabinet

2011

Selected to attend monthly meetings with DCPS Chancellor Kaya Henderson to discuss and provide teacher input on issues of interest to teachers in the public school system such as retaining great teachers.

Awards

- DC Metro Labor Council COPE Award 2020
- DC for Democracy's Jerry N. Clark Civic Super Hero Award "Teacher for Change: 2019

Community Participation

State Board of Education ESSA Task Force 2017-2019

Selected to attend monthly meetings with DCSBOE Members regarding implementation of the new ESSA regulations.

State Board of Education Credit Flexibility Task Force

Selected to attend bi-weekly meetings with DCSBOE Members regarding updates to the Credit Hour.

Chancellors Teachers Cabinet

2011

Selected to attend monthly meetings with DCPS Chancellor Kaya Henderson to discuss and provide teacher input on issues of interest to teachers in the public school system such as retaining great teachers.

Community Organization Memberships:

- Ward 5 Education Council, 2015-2018, 2022-Present
- Ward 7 Education Council Executive Board Member (Recording Secretary 2015-2020) Ward 7 Education Council Member (2009-Present)
- H.D. Woodson PTSA Secretary, 2011-2016
- SHAPPE member (2010-Present),
- ❖ SIT Meeting for HD Woodson Redesign (2011)
- ❖ DC For Democracy Member 2008-Present
- Empower DC Executive Board Member 2018-Present, Secretary 2019 and 2022-Present, Treasurer 2020, Empower DC Member 2008-Present
- DC Metro Labor Council Delegate and COPE Committee Member (2017-Present)
- Coalition for DC Public Schools Member (Representing DC-CORE, WTU and Ward 7 Education Council)
- ❖ Anti-Privatization Working Group (2018-2020)
- Workers Family Party Member (2019-Present)

Education Advocacy Events

- ❖ Speaker Education Townhall with Janeese Lewis George (2020)
- Excel Academy PTSA Meeting regarding Building (2019)
- ❖ DC Public Charter School Board Feedback Session (2019)
- ❖ Save Washington Metropolitan High School Public Meetings (2019)
- Collaboration with DCFPI new Hires (2019)
- Collaboration with AJE (2019)
- Birth to Three with JUFJ (2019)
- ❖ Coalition for DC Public Schools with Chancellor Ferebee (2019)
- Rally to Save Our Schools (2019)
- Presented Budget Training to Teachers at Houston ES (2019)
- ❖ Ward 7 Education Council Meetings (2019-Present)
- ❖ Ward 1 Education Council Meetings (2019-Present)
- DCPS Feeder Pattern Meeting (2019)
- DCPS Elective Course Assistance (2019)
- Mayoral Budget Forum (2019)
- Crummell School Campaign (2019)
- Standing Ovation Protest (2019)
- ❖ DC Council Hearing on the DCPS Chancellor (2019)
- ❖ A Better Way to Measure School Quality Talk (2019)
- Cardozo Feeder Pattern Community Campaign (2018-2019)
- ❖ DC SBOE Forum on Teacher and Principal Retention (2018)
- DCPS Budget Hearing (2018)
- Master Facilities Meeting (2018)
- COW Hearing on DC Research Advisory Board (2018)
- ❖ Guest on We Act Radio with Tallya Rhodes (2018)
- David Grosso Education Town Hall (2018)

- Guest on Taking Action WPFW Show (2018)
- WTU Meeting on Janus (2018)
- ❖ Lobbied DC Council Members Phil Mendelson, Charles Allen, David Grosso, Brandon Todd, Robert White, Brianne Nadeau re: Chancellor Selection Process (2018)
- ❖ Coalition for DC Public Schools Press Conference re: Chancellor Selection (2018)
- Ward 5 Democrats Meeting (2018)
- Ward 8 Meeting with David Grosso (2018)
- Affordable Housing Meeting, Empower DC (2018)
- Coalition for DC For Public Schools Education Candidate Forum (2018)
- Teaching For Change: Black Lives Matter at Schools Week Planning (2018)
- DCPS Graduation Policy Feedback Meeting (2018)
- DME Teacher Focus Group (2018)
- DC Budget Forum (2018)
- Black Lives Matter Curriculum Share (2018)
- Met with MLOV students (2018)
- ❖ DC Council Graduation Rate Accountability Hearing (2017)
- Feedback on DCPS Strategic Plan (2017)
- Presentation to WTU Teacher Leaders on the DC Political System (2017)
- DCPS Budget Hearing (2017)
- DME Master Facility Plan Public Meeting (2017)
- DC Council Hearings on DCPS Strategic Plan (2017)
- Student Advocacy Workshops at WTU (2017)
- DC Councilmember Grosso Teacher Forums (2017)
- ❖ Ward 4 Education Alliance with DCPS Chief of Instruction (2017)
- DECC Meeting (2017)
- DC4D Education Meet Up Presenter on DC's Governance Structure (2017)
- The Peoples' Budget Forum with DC's Fair Budget Coalition Table Leader on Education (2017)
- ❖ Walkability Preference Discussion with My School DC And the DME (2017)
- Chancellor Engagement Forums with DC Council (2017)
- WTU Contract Rally (2017)
- DC Budget Engagement Forum (2017)
- DC Public Schools Rally (2017)
- Public Schools March (2017)
- ❖ Alliance to Reclaim Our Schools Day of Action (2017)
- ❖ DME Cross Sector Task Force Community Meeting (2017)
- ❖ DC Council Roundtables on New Chancellor Nomination (2016)
- DCPS Budget Hearing (2016)
- ❖ Robert White Transition Team Education Subcommittee Member (2016)
- State of DC Public Schools (2016)
- Lobby offices of David Grosso, Elissa Silverman, Robert White, Kenyan McDuffie, Brandon Todd, Brianne Nadeau, regarding Chancellor Selection (2016)
- Council Member David Grosso Teacher RoundTable (2016)
- Save Our Schools Rally and Coalition Summit (2016)
- ❖ ABA Focus Group (2016)
- DCSBOE ESSA Meeting (2016)
- DC Mayor's Public Education Hearing (2016)

- Reclaiming the Promise of Public Education (2016)
- Edfest Volunteer at Woodson's Table (2015)
- DCPS Budget Hearing (2015)
- OSSE City-Wide Education Discussion (2015)
- Parent Bill of Rights Discussion (2014)
- Truancy Round Table with DC Board of Education (2014)
- * Reclaim Democracy in our Schools (2014)
- National Day of Action (2014)
- East End Working Group (2014)
- Deputy Mayor for Education School Boundaries Meetings (2014)
- Campaign to stop the closure of SHARPE and Mamie D. Lee (2014)
- DCPS Budget Address (2014)
- ❖ American Graduate Community Town Hall (2014)
- Focus Group DC Student Assignment Committee (2013)
- Public Schools Discussion: Privatization (2013)
- State of DC Schools Protest (2013)
- OSSE Focus Group on DC Report Card (2013)
- ❖ Meeting with Education Trust Invite Only Meeting (2013)
- Campaign to stop DCPS School Closures with Empower DC (2012-2013)
- Teach Plus Advocacy even with DCPS Chancellor (2012)
- Save Our Schools Rally, Washington DC (2012)
- Chancellor Address DC Public Schools and Town Hall (2012)
- ❖ Neighborhood Schools and Public Voice Town Hall (2012)
- DC American Graduate Teacher Town Hall: Talking About the Dropout Crisis, Filmed for PBS (2012)
- Teach Plus: Measuring Teacher Quality (2012)
- DCPS IMPACT Feedback Session (2012)
- ❖ Teach Plus Event with Arne Duncan (2012)
- Meetings with the Department of Education regarding DOES Policies and ESEA (2011)
- Occupy Wall St., Washington DC (2011) founded and organized "We Teach the 99%" Group and Rally with ~100 participants
- ❖ Teach Plus Retaining Good Teachers Conference, (2011)
- ❖ DC State Board Of Education Teacher Focus Group on ESEA Flexibility (2011)
- Save Our Schools Rally, Washington DC, (2011)

Community Activism Events

- Mutual Aid Deliveries with East of the River Mutual Aid, Washington DC, (2020)
- Neighborhood Donations to Ward 6 Mutual Aid Network, Washington DC, (2020)
- ❖ BYP 100 Abolition Teach-In, Washington DC, (2019)
- Don't Mute DC Call to Action Rally, Washington DC, (2019)
- ❖ Peace Rally for Ward 8, Washington DC, (2019)
- ❖ GoGo 4 Justice Event, Washington DC, (2019)
- Women's March, Washington DC, (2019)
- ❖ Save Barry Farms Rally, Washington DC, (2018)
- ❖ ANC Training with Jews United for Justice, Washington DC, (2018)
- ❖ Ivy City Day with Empower DC, Washington DC, (2018)
- Crummell School Surplus Hearing, Washington DC, (2018)
- Evicted Exhibit with Jeremiah Lowery (Candidate DC Council), Washington DC, (2018)

- ❖ DC Public Charter School Board Meeting, Washington DC, (2018)
- ❖ Working People's Day of Action, Washington DC, (2018)
- ❖ Discussion about Money in Politics, Washington DC, (2017)
- People Power Meeting, Washington DC, (2017)
- ❖ Affordable Housing Meeting with Empower DC, Washington DC, (2017)
- ❖ March for Racial Justice, Washington DC, (2017)
- ❖ Fair Budget Coalition Strategizing Session, Washington DC, (2017)
- ❖ Women's Strike, Washington DC, (2017)
- Women's March, Washington DC (2017)
- Presidential Inauguration Protests, Washington DC, Washington DC, (2017)
- ❖ DC Citywide Meetings on the Comprehensive Plan, Washington DC, (2016-Present)
- ❖ DCFPI Dinner, Washington DC, (2016)
- DC Constitution Town Halls and Advocacy Meetings in DC Statehood Coalition, Washington DC, (2016)
- ❖ AFT Black Lives Matter Protest, Minneapolis, MN (2016)
- ❖ Republican National Convention Protests, Cleveland, OH (2016)
- ♦ DC Council Member David Grosso Ward 5 Party, Washington DC, (2016)
- ❖ Rally for Congress Heights, Washington DC, (2016)
- ❖ DC Fair Food Community Meeting, Washington DC, (2015)
- ❖ Mayor Budget Forum, Washington DC, (2015)
- March on Washington, Washington DC (2014)
- Black Friday Protest Washington DC, (2014)
- Ferguson Protest Washington DC, (2014)
- ❖ Budget Training, Grassroots Voices Listening Process Washington DC, (2014)
- State of the District Protest Washington DC, (2013)
- State of the District, Empower DC, Washington DC (2012)
- Occupy Wall St., New York City, NY (2011)
- Human Rights Committee Award Dinner Volunteer, Washington DC, (2011)
- DC Vote Protests and DC Statehood Community, Washington DC, 2011-Present

Political Campaigns

- Volunteered with Hillary for America (100+ Hours with students and independently in Pennsylvania),
 2016
- Volunteered with Obama for America (100+ Hours with students and independently in Northern Virginia), 2012
- Volunteered Canvassing and Phonebanking with Obama For America (100+ Hours in Manassas, VA) 2008

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- 4. "D.C. ELECTION ROUNDUP: Washington Teachers' Union Endorses Primary Candidates" By James Wright in the Washington Informer, February 19, 2020 https://www.washingtoninformer.com/d-c-election-roundup-washington-teachers-union-endorses-primary-candidates/
- 5. "The Inspector General's Report on a Graduation Scandal" on Kojo Nnamdi Show Transcript.
- 6. "Deanwood ANC Commissioner Says He Wasn't Inciting Violence Against Police In Tweets" By Natalie Delgadillo, DCist, May 17, 2019 https://dcist.com/story/19/05/17/deanwood-anc-commissioner-says-he-wasnt-inciting-violence-against-police-in-tweets/
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- 8. "Integrity, transparency: D.C. residents cite traits they seek in new schools leader" by Perry Stein, Washington Post, January 30, 2019

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- "Schools try to explain shutdown to students and hire furloughed workers" by Morgan Smith, Washington Post, January 21, 2019
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- 11. An Equity Centered Approach to Teaching in High Schools Dissertation by Chris Seeger (2019)
- 12. "Plans for Bard's early college school prompt questions about impact, location" By Catherine Douglas Moran on the DC Line, October 31, 2018 https://thedcline.org/2018/10/31/plans-for-bards-early-college-school-prompt-questions-about-impact-location/
- 13. "A Student's Voice" by Tallya Rhodes Posted on David Grosso DC Council At-Large Page. August 17, 2018 http://www.davidgrosso.org/grosso-analysis/2018/8/17/astudentsvoice
- 14. "DC won't have new credit recovery regulations in place for upcoming school year" by Taylor Mulcahey on DC Line, August 3, 2018 https://thedcline.org/2018/08/03/dc-wont-have-new-credit-recovery-regulations-in-place-for-upcoming-school-year/
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- 16. "Four challenged D.C. schools are getting new principals. But do school leaders want to work here?" By Perry Stein, Washington Post, June 30, 2018 https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/education/four-challenged-dc-schools-are-getting-new-principals-but-do-school-leaders-want-to-work-here/2018/06/30/9b087bd4-7a39-11e8-93cc-6d3beccdd7a3 story.html
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- 22. "Who Benefits from the Expansion of AP Classes?" By Alina Tugend, The New York Times Magazine, September 7, 2017. https://www.nytimes.com/2017/09/07/magazine/who-benefits-from-the-expansion-of-ap-classes.html
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- 2. "A D.C. teacher's troubled experience with IMPACT" Introduced By <u>Valerie Strauss</u> on Washington Post's Answer Sheet Blog June 22, 2011 https://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/answer-sheet/post/a-dc-teachers-troubled-experience-with-impact/2011/06/21/AGN0u6eH blog.html
- "What a D.C. teacher told the chancellor about testing" Introduced By <u>Valerie Strauss</u> on Washington Post's Answer Sheet Blog May 11, 2011 https://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/answer-sheet/post/what-a-dc-teacher-told-the-chancellor-about-testing/2011/05/09/AFbKuEdG_blog.html

Testimony

Over 150 testimonies in front of the DC Council, DC State Board of Education, DC Public Schools and the DC Public Charter School Board from 2012 to present