Student and Family Handbook
2020-2021 School Year
IDEA policies may be added or amended during the current school year. Any major policy changes will be communicated to students and their families in writing.
Student and Family Rights and Responsibilities

Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) is a federal law that affords parent or guardian the right to access their children’s education records. When a student turns 18 years old, or enters a postsecondary institution at any age, the rights under FERPA transfer from the parent or guardian to the student. The FERPA statute is found at 20 U.S.C. § 1232g and the FERPA regulations are found at 34 CFR Part 99.

Complaint Policy

IDEA places a high value on the input of parents and legal guardians, and encourages any parent or guardian to offer feedback on any aspect of the school program. If you are a parent or guardian who has a grievance, you are encouraged to contact the appropriate school staff member to discuss the area of concern. If your concerns are not addressed, please feel free to contact the following school leaders at IDEA.

Head of School/ Executive Director, Justin Rydstrom rydstrom@ideapcs.org
Principal, Nicole McCrae nmcrae@ideapcs.org
Vice Principal, Shomari Jennings sjennings@ideapcs.org
Dean of Culture, Lori Briscoe lbriscoe@ideapcs.org
Director of Student Support Services, Melody Washington mwashington@ideapcs.org

If the leaders within the school are unresponsive, parent or guardian should address their concerns with the school's Board of Trustees. The Board of Trustees will try its best to work out all grievances with the family/student. The contact person is below:

Chair, Board of Trustees - Calvin Snowden - calvinsnowden@comcast.net

Homeless Students (McKinney-Vento Act)

IDEA provides services for students who qualify as homeless under the McKinney Vento Act. Families receive information on the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Act annually. The school’s McKinney-Vento liaison acts as the main point of contact for families and government agencies. Referrals may be made to the appropriate administrator or McKinney-Vento liaison.

The McKinney-Vento liaison annually informs staff and parents and legal guardians of steps to take when referring a child for assessment, common signs of homelessness, and services that will be made available to all identified students. Referrals and assessments will be ongoing throughout the year. Once a student is successfully identified, the liaison—in cooperation with school staff—ensures and records that all services are being rendered to the student if need is presented. Metro cards, uniforms, and supplies will be handled through the office of the liaison. All students, regardless of the situation, are tracked academically through their advisory. If a
student requires an Individualized Education Program (IEP), through the DCPS Office of Special Education, he or she will receive special education in a timely manner through the Office of Special Education. On a quarterly basis, the McKinney-Vento liaison will check in with all students identified as homeless to verify that services are being provided. If, at any time, a disciplinary hearing is required due to an identified student’s actions, the liaison will sit in on the meeting to verify that those actions were not as a result of his or her living situation.

All identified students will be re-assessed annually, unless a change in living situation is presented to the school.