1. After reading DC's draft State Education Plan, what do you see as the strengths of the plan?

The draft plan is a positive start in outlining the District's strategies for public education that support specific groups of students, and ensure greater equity in outcomes for students along with affording opportunities for greater parent engagement.

2. Do you have suggestions for improvements, additions or changes to the state plan?

Of the eleven "arts friendly" features of ESSA, we want to ensure that OSSE and SBOE recognize three in particular in DC's State Plan:

New Block Grants in new federal funds available to "Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grants", including support for Well-Rounded Education which includes writing, arts, and music along with our additional recommendations of *Humanities: Literary Arts, Humanities: Civics/ Social Studies/ History/ Geography, Music/ Music Production, Dance, Theatre, and Visual Arts/ Photography/ Film.*

Teacher Professional Development where students benefit from certified arts educators and community arts providers (such as DC Collaborative members,) who can provide sequential standards-based arts curriculum and connections between the arts and other content areas..*

Inclusion of STEAM (not just STEM) which ESSA states as program and activities that support educational programs that integrate multiple disciplines, such as programs that combine arts and math.

3. Do you have other comments or questions about DC's state plan?

As the State Board of Education and OSSE begin to present the **Draft Consolidated State Plan**, we believe it is important for families to not only have clarity and consistency in making informed choices for their children's education, but that they know that **the arts and humanities are vital part of their children's well-rounded education**. *To that end, we are pleased with DCPS's arts education curricular connections for the arts and we encourage all public charter schools to adopt similar curriculum for the arts and humanities.

As members of the arts and Humanities education community, we are concerned that the current **Draft Accountability Plan**, while it may be a work in progress, the programs Included in the Consolidated State Plan that reflects 80% of its measurement is only 2 subjects: Math and ELA. While we understand this may be based on PARCC testing, we strongly believe that arts and humanities education must also be included as an important factor in determining successful schools and schools in need of additional support. Arts and humanities education make schools great and students successful and need to be included in all planning from the beginning.