When PAVE Parent Leaders See Something....

- Parents do not understand DC’s education system.
- Our schools and state agencies have unintentionally created barriers to parents advocating for their children.
- Navigating the education system can be difficult, especially for parents of children with special needs and Spanish-speaking families.

...PAVE Parent Leaders SAY and DO Something!

- PAVE participated in the National PTA and Data for Action convening to discuss the power of providing parents with accessible and accurate information as they advocate for their children.
- PAVE partnered with Learning Heroes to ensure that their online Readiness Check tool was representative of parent needs and to share their resources directly with families.
- PAVE joined the UPLAN network to connect and share resources with parents in other states, and PAVE parent leaders amplified their work with families across the nation: from Connecticut to Kansas to California.
- At DC Parent Voice and Choice Week, PAVE Parent Leaders continued to advocate for increased resources for students with special needs. PAVE also partnered with Parent Advocate Leaders Group (PALs) to provide information for parents of students with special needs and connect them to opportunities to advocate for their child.
- PAVE is hosting a listening tour to learn about the challenges facing parents who have children with special needs or who speak Spanish and about their vision for the future.

“When you don’t know the language, you are more susceptible to being treated poorly. The system can take advantage of your rights, and equally, you might not even know your rights. As a foreigner, it is easy to feel like we don’t belong in spaces...But I know ONE day they will not be able to ignore us. It gives me strength for that one day.” - Flor Buruca, Ward 4 PAVE Parent Leader
Because of PAVE Parent Leaders....

- Through blog posts, newsletters, and events with both local and national partners, PAVE Parent Leaders shared their powerful stories about their journey to becoming informed, empowered advocates for their children, and their desire to inspire parents to do the same.
- More parents across the city and across the country are getting the information they need and are opening spaces for other parents to do the same.

What’s Next?

- There is much more work to do in order to connect, inform, and empower all DC parents so they can advocate for not just their child, but all children.
- PAVE will launch Parent Leaders in Education (PLE) Boards and a series of informational events for families with students with special needs and Hispanic/Latinx families.
- In SY 2019-20, PAVE parent leaders will advocate for more parent- and family-centered engagement opportunities that remove traditional barriers to access.

Join us in making change in DC Schools!

- Check out our PAVE Posts about our listening tours for families with children with special needs at bit.ly/2WobY2F and Hispanic/Latinx families at bit.ly/2l3eTxH
- Reach out to PAVE’s organizing team at organizers@dcpave.org to join 2000+ DC parent leaders and share your voice!