



## VALUE #5

All parents should have the resources they need to support the success of their children at home – and in school.



### 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*





## VALUE #5

*All parents should have the resources they need to support the success of their children at home – and in school.*



### 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/2WobYZF](https://bit.ly/2WobYZF) and **Hispanic/Latinx families** at [bit.ly/2I3eTxH](https://bit.ly/2I3eTxH)
- Reach out to PAVE's **organizing team** at [organizers@dcpave.org](mailto:organizers@dcpave.org) to join 2000+ DC parent leaders and share your voice!

