



# BACK TO SCHOOL PRAYER GUIDE



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Mr. Kamras views public education as a means of promoting equity and justice for all children in the United States. He holds a bachelor's degree in public policy from Princeton University and a master's degree in education from the Harvard Graduate School of Education.

## What are you excited & hopeful about for the 2023-24 school year?

I'm excited about RPS 200, a new pilot program at Cardinal Elementary School and Fairfield Court Elementary School that adds 20 additional instructional days to the school year to help students catch up from the impacts of the pandemic. If the pilot is successful, we hope to expand it to more schools. I'm also excited about our wellness initiatives, our academic focus on student ownership of learning, and operational changes that will help make RPS more efficient.

## What challenges are you facing?

The pandemic exacerbated existing challenges that many of our families face, including poverty, housing instability, food insecurity, healthcare access, and community gun violence. It also had education specific impacts, including a drop in test scores, much higher rates of students experiencing mental health issues, and a shortage of teachers and other staff.

## What are some prayer points?

1. Pray that our students, families, teachers, staff and administrators receive grace and give themselves grace
2. Pray that our children are loved for exactly who they are – no matter how they define themselves
3. Pray that our community comes together to end the scourge of youth gun violence

## What are some next steps?

- Ask your church if they partner with a school and if they do, join in what's already happening
- Mentoring students
- Volunteering at schools
- Serving on the superintendent's Interfaith Advisory Council
- Contributing to the RPS Education Foundation
- Advocating at the General Assembly for increased education funding

### RPS AT A GLANCE:

Enrollment: 21,706 students

Racial & Ethnic Groups: 60.5% Black, 25% Hispanic, 10.7% White, 2.7% Multiple Races, 0.8% Asian, 0.2% American Indian

Students with Disabilities: 13.1%

Economically Disadvantaged: 68.3%

English Learners: 19.5%