



Each year the Diverse Charter Schools Coalition (DCSC) selects a member school or school network to receive Member of the Year Award. This year's recipient will be selected by votes from DCSC members. Only staff at DCSC member schools are eligible to vote as part of their registration for the 2022 Annual Convening. Before casting a vote, please review the information from this member's self nomination below:



Students in Ms. Burkhardt's 7th grade science class at DSST Cole Middle School completed a frog dissection (12/13/2019)

DSST Public Schools

- Denver and Aurora, CO
- Founded in 2004
- Grades 6-12
- Network (15 schools): 7,000 students
- DCSC member since 2014



Why were they nominated?

To be the Member of the Year would be a testament of the work we began in 2004 from the founding of our first school and an acknowledgement of our sustained drive across the 15 schools that serve the Greater Denver Metro area. DSST has long been known as a leader in student outcomes and as a top workplace. This award will highlight and showcase that our diverse by design model is what makes us who we are and guides us in how we serve our individual school communities, families, and students.

What could members learn from their success?

Across our community, we have achieved success with both students, staff, and families. With a goal of 88 DEI sessions last year, we held well over 200 across the network, including Home Office and all 15 schools; 100% of campuses (15/15) have equity working groups. Staff retention was 84%; staff of color retention was 82%. A focus on advanced course offerings resulted in: increased average college credits earned per student and increased percentage of students earning GPAs above 3.0 at all schools.

Vote for DCSC's 2022 Member of the Year!

- Votes are submitted as part of registration for the 2022 Annual Convening (one can only vote if 'Member' is selected during registration)
- Votes from all DCSC member schools and networks will be weighted so that each member organization has one vote

Deadline to vote:
Jan 13, 2022, 12am EST

Measures of Success

DSST conducted a family survey, with up to 1,800 parent respondents during 2020-2021. The survey included items to gauge parents' perceptions of student safety, their relationships with DSST teachers, and the extent to which their child's academic and social-emotional needs are met.

88% of DSST parents reported their student gets meaningful one-on-one touch points with an adult at school. 81% agreed that DSST's family community events were both accessible and fulfilling.