

# DIGITAL PIONEERS ACADEMY

*Creating equity by erasing the digital divide*



Ward: TBD



New start  
Projected start date:  
Fall 2018



Charter



Grades served:  
6-12

Digital Pioneers Academy (DPA) will open its doors with the vision of **preparing students to excel in a rapidly digitizing world**. At the core of DPA's learning model is a deep focus on building high-level computer science skills, with the ultimate goal of **all students attending four-year colleges and universities**. While courses at DPA are personalized for every child, all students participate in **group advisories** that provide structured time to dive deeply into new topics or strengthen skills in areas of challenge. DPA is committed to **creating equity by integrating computer sciences throughout the core curriculum**, with the goal of erasing the digital divide.

## TEAM LEADER: MASHEA ASHTON

Mashea Ashton is the founder and CEO of Digital Pioneers Academy. Mashea recently returned to the Washington, D.C. area after spending 20 years implementing and scaling the best practices in urban education across the country.

Mostly recently, Mashea served as the CEO of the Newark Charter School Fund, where she oversaw a \$48 million initiative to support the quality growth of charter schools. Under Mashea's leadership, Newark's charter sector grew from 8% to an estimated 30% of the

children in Newark's public schools in 2016. Mashea has previously served as the executive director for the New York program and senior advisor for charter school policy for New Leaders for New Schools, the executive director for charter schools for the New York City Department of Education, and the national director of recruitment and selection for the Knowledge is Power Program (KIPP).

Mashea is a frequent speaker and panelist for charter school and education reform advocacy organizations around the country. She holds a Master's degree in special education with an emphasis on learning disabilities and emotional disturbance and a Bachelor of Arts in sociology and elementary education from the College of William and Mary. She and her husband Kendrick are the proud parents of twins.