



Chapter 4: Investing in You is One Way We Say Thanks

Thanksgiving is nearly here—a time of laughter, merriment, food, and gratitude—and our gratefulness is centered on *you*, our first-in-the-nation employees.

Every day, you compose a harmonized story of student success: plant managers rise before dawn to ensure campuses are opened and ready; before bus drivers arrive safely with students, who are greeted by warm welcomes from office staff and campus aides and equally warm breakfasts from cafeteria workers; before teachers and substitute teachers begin artfully inspiring those youth, with guidance and support from school site, local district, and Central office administrators; while school police provide order throughout buildings that continue to function smoothly because of hard-working trades professionals; while countless others in the District perform their critical roles; before custodians put it all back together again at the end of the day; so the process can repeat and students keep growing day after week after month after year.

As I said before, no other agency or organization comes close to what you do—and I am boundlessly grateful.

Investing in you is one way we say thanks. We have continued to invest more and more each year in employees' compensation, including salaries, pensions, and health benefits. In fact, since 2013-14, our investments in total employee compensation have increased by *more than \$1 billion*! Meanwhile, we continue to work together with our labor partners and school communities to demand fair school funding from the state, and, as always, to <u>maximize</u> the <u>limited resources</u> we do have to invest as much as we can in our students, schools, and employees.

Again, thank you so much for everything you do, and enjoy the Thanksgiving holiday!



Vivian Ekchian, Acting Superintendent

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