The Office of Data and Accountability (ODA) team is focused on providing high quality data, information and analysis to enable the sweeping reforms currently underway at the District of Columbia Public Schools. ODA serves as the analytic hub for the district by providing data to support policy and implementation goals as well as providing assistance in development and dissemination of all achievement related data and oversee and direct all research, evaluation, analytics and testing activities including all summative and formative assessment. ODA is also responsible for overseeing the data system functions in the DCPS.

The guiding principle of ODA is to support decision-making in DCPS with accurate information about how our students are performing, how our schools are performing, and how the district as a whole is performing. ODA provides the DCPS community with streamlined data systems that place high quality, results-focused information at its fingertips, and provides the supports to transform data into actionable information.

The senior database administrator will have primary responsibility for architecting and developing complex backend data structures and queries. They will act as the main database resource for application development as well as backend tuning and setup. They will work with technical resources from other DC agencies and external vendors in order to ensure DCPS needs are met. In addition to the architectural requirements of any particular database, they will also balance immediate needs with future direction and ensure that database design can be leveraged for other purposes as much as possible. They will assist in developing data governance policies and procedures. One of the primary operational duties will be to provide hands on administration for the database cluster supporting the main student information system. Additional areas of focus include initiatives increasing report automation and the availability of data to allow for self-service end user data pulls and the creation of infrastructure for making fresher data available from systems of record to downstream systems (service oriented architecture, etc). In addition to technical skill they must have a strong sense of curiosity as a critical part of the role will be to help come up with the future long term vision for data systems in DCPS and plan out what should be built to implement that vision.

The Database Administrator reports to the Director of Applications

Primary duties:

- Works with other programs and offices within DCPS to understand overall DCPS needs so as to implement strategic rather than tactical solutions
- Design service oriented architecture to improve data availability and data quality
- Write code to implement complex queries and application features
- Sets up and deploys database instances as needed to support application development, testing, and deployment
- Suggests techniques and approaches to improve database performance
- Investigates new technologies and suggests new solutions to business problems
- Evaluate software to determine the level that it meets the needs of the business today and in the future (design, extendibility, flexibility, integration, utilizes generic business objects/components etc.).
• Provides ongoing review of all data models, data architecture and database interface code for critical applications
• Supports and carries out the Chancellor's mission to transform DC Public Schools and close the achievement gap
• Performs other related duties as assigned.

Professional/Educational Qualifications

• 5 to 9 years experience in database administration
• Strong Experience with Oracle 10g with RAC
• Experience with Oracle Application Server a plus
• Experience with configuring database stacks for high availability clusters
• Experience with working with Storage Area Networks a plus
• Experience with either data warehousing or data virtualization
• Previous exposure to or experience in the education sector a plus.

Strong Candidate will have:

• Familiarity with user-centered design and usability practices
• Exceptional facility with tuning SQL queries to optimize performance relative to application needs
• Exceptional knowledge of standard database concepts (query optimization, database tuning, data modeling, etc)
• Good experience with working with Open Source tools and frameworks
• Familiarity with standard persistence layer design patterns such as active record
• Good feel for normalizing pragmatically rather than marching robotically towards 5th normal form
• Strong experience with MySQL
• Strong scripting skills (Perl, Ruby, Python etc)
• Good experience with supporting tools and technologies including basic operating system tools (mainly Linux) and configuration options.
• Keen sense of maximizing return on investment, focusing on the 80% solutions rather than a fruitless quest for perfection
• Strong self-starter and ability to work independently
• Strong attention to detail and the ability to translate high level technical and business initiatives and goals into discrete tasks and specific timelines
• Excellent communication skills, especially the ability to actively listen and draw out the true needs rather than the stated wants of any given stakeholder
• Superb problem solving skills and troubleshooting abilities
• Ability to work independently as well as collaboratively in a multidisciplinary team

Strong focus on teamwork and developing the skills of DCPS colleagues both technical and non-technical

To apply, please visit:
http://dcps.dc.gov/DCPS/About+DCPS/Career+Opportunities/Support+Our+Schools/View+All+Jobs