

**Ayana Lewis** is Assistant Director of the School District of Philadelphia's Office of Strategic Partnerships (OSP). In this role, she identifies and helps manage partner support of the District's 200+ schools, and develops initiatives and capacity building strategies to better align partner programming with District priorities and expressed school needs. As OSP's point person on college and career readiness partnerships, she collaborates with many of the city's post-secondary prep organizations to strengthen and expand their work in schools, and was recently presented with the "College Access Ambassador Award" by the New Covenant Church of Philadelphia. Ayana was also a 2018-19 Pennsylvania Education Policy Fellow, where she advocated for legislation requiring the inclusion of mental health literacy and awareness instruction in K-12 curriculum.

Ayana is Co-Chair of [Penn Law's Equity & Inclusion Alumni Advisory Board](#), executive board member of the Penn Law Black Alumni Association (PLBAA), and serves on the Penn State Admissions Advisory Board. In 2012, Ayana earned her J.D. from the University of Pennsylvania Law School, as well as a certificate in cross-sector innovation from UPenn's School of Social Policy & Practice. While in law school, Ayana developed a special education awareness program for parents of children with learning disabilities as Community Liaison of Penn Law's Leaders in Education Advocacy and Reform Network (LEARN), and established the Penn Law Black Law Students Association's first Advocacy Chair position. Ayana received her B.A. in sociology from Spelman College in 2006. She and her husband Michael Lewis spend much of their free time chasing after their spunky, fearless daughters Zala and Zuri.