

A PROPOSED RESOLUTION

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

To declare the existence of an emergency with the respect to the need to amend the Uniform Per Student Funding Formula for Public Schools and Public Charter Schools Act of 1998, to allow the Chancellor, in consultation with the principal and local school advisory team, to direct at-risk student funds, and to establish a nonlapsing fund for at-risk funds allocated to DCPS.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the “At-Risk Funding Preservation Emergency Declaration Resolution of 2015.”

Sec. 2. (a) In 1998, the Council passed the Uniform Per Student Funding Formula for Public Schools and Public Charter Schools Act of 1998 (D.C. Law 12-0207; D.C. Official Code § 38-2901 et seq.), in order to “establish a funding Formula to determine annual payments to the District of Columbia Public Schools and annual payments to Public Charter Schools.”

(b) In 2013, the Council amended the Uniform Per Student Funding Formula for Public Schools and Public Charter Schools Act of 1998 with the Fair Student Funding and School-Based Budgeting Amendment Act of 2013 (D.C. Law 20-0087; D.C. Official Code § 38-2901 et seq.) establishing an at-risk funding supplement to existing base funding, to be dispersed at the school-level based on the projected enrollment of at risk students.

(c) The law also stated that at least 90% of the at-risk funds allocated to DCPS school-level budgets shall be spent at the principal’s discretion, in consultation with the school’s local school advisory team.

(d) Over the past few years, DCPS has identified several programs, interventions, and initiatives that have proven successful in providing additional supports for students, resulting in gains in student achievement, growth in terms of DCPS’ enrollment, and an increase in student and parent satisfaction.

(e) The current law would not enable the Chancellor to fully ensure that all students across DCPS are continuing to access programs and interventions that work. It also does not allow for DCPS to plan for programs over multiple years as funding currently expires at the end of the fiscal year. District public charter schools are able to carryover funds from year-to-year.

1 (f) Further, the turnaround for principals to make budget decisions after receiving their
2 school budget allocations does not allow for much time to fully research, analyze, and vet the
3 efficacy of programs to implement on their own. DCPS' central office is prepared to help guide
4 principals and school communities through this process.

5 (g) School budgets for school year 2015-2016 are currently being prepared; therefore,
6 this emergency is needed to allow the Chancellor to have more discretion for the utilization of at-
7 risk funds to ensure that money is directed to initiatives that will have the greatest impact for
8 students and that equity in terms of access to programs is maintained.

9 Sec. 3. The Council of the District of Columbia determines that the circumstances
10 enumerated in section 2 constitute emergency circumstances making it necessary that the
11 "Uniform Per Student Funding Formula for Public Schools and Public Charter Schools
12 Amendment Act of 2015" be adopted after a single reading.

13 Sec. 4. This resolution shall take effect immediately.