

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
Office of the Deputy Mayor for Education

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Interim Deputy Mayor for Education



**Fiscal Year 2014 Budget Oversight Responses**

**1. What are the agency's performance goals and targeted outcomes for FY14? How will the proposed FY14 budget serve to achieve those goals?**

The work of the Office of the Deputy Mayor for Education (DME) in FY 14 will focus on five main areas:

- Joint Planning (between DCPS and the charter sector)
- At-Risk Youth (includes truancy and disconnected youth)
- Raise DC
- Early Childhood Development and Education
- Special Education

In addition, DME will continue to provide oversight and support of the education cluster agencies, which includes the Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE), District of Columbia Public Schools (DCPS), Public Charter School Board (PCSB), University of the District of Columbia (UDC), and District of Columbia Public Libraries (DCPL).

**Joint Planning**

For the remainder of FY 13, DME will lead the effort to develop a citywide vision for public education and associated strategies to increase access to high quality school options for families in the District. In FY 14, DME will oversee implementation of these strategies (though implementation will begin in FY 13). Specific strategies are still under consideration, however, likely areas of work will include:

- Providing a platform and staff support for on-going joint planning between sectors on the number and placement of schools that would optimize high quality school options for families.
- Creating policy and structural changes that will ensure fair and equitable allocation of resources to LEAs.

- Exploring ways to support schools that are struggling to serve special populations, including students with special needs, English Language Learners, students who are off-track, and students who have disciplinary issues.
- Making school quality data more user-friendly for families.
- Improving student assignment policies to give families greater access to high quality school options.

DME's proposed budget includes funding for key staff that will be required to undertake the work described above, including the Chief Policy Advisor, Facilities Program Manager, and Senior Advisor for School Quality. In addition, the Senior Advisors for Special Education, Truancy, and Disconnected Youth/Workforce Development will support this work as needed.

In addition to funding for personnel in the operating budget, DME's proposed capital budget includes \$8 million in FY 14 and \$4 million planned for FY 15 to support the development of a statewide Student Information System (SIS). The SIS will be developed in conjunction with relevant stakeholders and will be designed to support the joint planning work described above.

### **At-Risk Youth**

In FY 14 DME will continue its efforts on truancy and disconnected youth by undertaking several key initiatives which will include: overseeing implementation and rigorous evaluation of truancy task force initiatives in collaboration with the Office of the Deputy Mayor for Health and Human Services (DMHHS), project managing a K-12 market segmentation analysis to identify and implement citywide strategies for District students who are academically off-track, and developing and implementing strategies to connect youth to education and work, including determining the feasibility of opening the District's first reengagement center. DME's proposed budget includes two Senior Policy Advisor positions to staff truancy and disconnected youth/workforce development respectively.

### **Raise DC**

As described in our performance oversight hearing, Raise DC is a partnership comprised of committed local business, philanthropic, government, education and non-profit leaders. The aim of the partnership is to improve educational outcomes for District youth and to develop a local pool of talented, workforce-ready young residents to fill available jobs within the city. DME has led the effort to incubate Raise DC and will be transitioning the partnership to an anchor institution outside of government over the next several months.

In addition to overseeing the transition of the partnership to an anchor institution, in FY 14 DME will continue to provide staff support to the Change Networks<sup>1</sup> which make up the core of Raise DC's work. The Senior Advisor for Raise DC will lead this work.

### **Early Childhood Development and Education**

In FY 14, DME will continue to staff the State Early Childhood Development Coordinating Council. Specific initiatives for FY 14 are still under consideration, but one area of work will involve supporting the OSSE in its implementation of a Kindergarten Entrance Assessment and a Quality Rating Improvement System for early childhood programs. The Senior Advisor for Early Childhood Education and Development will support this work.

### **Special Education**

In addition to the four areas described above, DME will continue to provide oversight and support to education cluster agencies to meet the Mayor's goal of increasing the capacity of local public schools to serve students with special needs and reducing non-public placements by 50% in his first term. Specific initiatives under the special education portfolio will also include facilitating the creation of innovative mechanisms to support both DCPS and charter schools to provide services to students with significant levels of need, as well as continuing to help coordinate efforts between the health and human services and education clusters to implement an effective system for Medicaid reimbursement for school-based health services and specialized transportation. The FY 14 budget for DME includes a Senior Advisor for Special Education to carry out this work.

### **2. Will the proposed FY14 budget allow DME to meet all of its statutory mandates?**

The proposed FY 2014 budget is adequate to allow DME to exercise its responsibilities of maintaining oversight and management of agencies in the education cluster, facilitating inter-agency coordination on key education policy initiatives, and driving education policy for the Mayor in line with his citywide education policy goals.

Funds are not allocated in the proposed FY 14 budget to support the Office of the Ombudsman for Public Education, which is overseen by the DME.

### **3. Please breakdown how your budget will assist with spending pressures from DCPS and/or PCSB.**

As indicated in DME's responses to its performance oversight questions for FY 12, spending pressures are handled through the Mayor's spending pressure task force, which includes

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<sup>1</sup> There will be a Change Network for each of Raise DC's five goals (Early Childhood, K-12, Disconnected Youth, Postsecondary, and Youth Employment). Currently, all Change Networks with the exception of the K-12 change network are operational. Consisting of city agencies, philanthropic organizations, community-based groups, and corporate leaders, the Change Networks analyze data on effective practices, formulate action plans and incorporate these plans into their existing programs in order to bring successful practices to scale. Their work is driven by the Raise DC success roadmap and information presented in the baseline report.

representatives from the Office of the City Administrator, the Mayor's Office of Budget and Finance, the four Deputy Mayor Offices, the Mayor's Office of Policy and Legislative Affairs, and the independent Office of the Chief Financial Officer. The primary method for assisting with spending pressures is through this task force, which is attended by both the Deputy Mayor and the Chief of Staff.

In addition, in FY 14 DME will look closely at the results of the Adequacy Study to determine whether changes to the UPSFF should be made in order to adequately fund schools and reduce the risk of spending pressures.

**4. Please provide the amount you will allocate to programmatic initiatives, particularly Raise DC, the Truancy Taskforce and the Uniform per Student Funding Formula?**

In addition to the salary for the Senior Advisor for Raise D.C. (\$90,000), DME will allocate approximately \$50,000 to support consultant(s) who will provide data analysis support.

The Mayor has proposed \$1 million in DMHHS's budget to support truancy related initiatives. DME will work closely with DMHHS to implement anti-truancy initiatives in FY 14 with the help of the Senior Advisor for Truancy. DME has budgeted \$90,000 to support this position and has budgeted \$80,000 for consultative services.

With regard to the UPSFF, the Adequacy Study will be delivered to DME at the end of FY 13, and FY 14 will be devoted to implementing key recommendations from the study. DME will undertake this work with DME staff. No additional contracts are planned to support this work at this time.

**5. Please list the amount of funds spent on consultants in FY 12 and to date in FY13, including the name of the state or federal district in which the consultant's principal office is located.**

KnowledgeWorks Foundation:

Principal place of business: 1 W. 4th St, Suite 202, Cincinnati, OH 45202

FY 12: \$32,217

Purpose: Creation of Raise DC 180-Day Plan

Reingold Link, LLC:

Principal place of business: 2901 14th St., NW Suite 201, Washington, DC 20009

FY 12: \$66,800

FY 13: \$64,360 to date (out of \$70,000 contract)

Purpose: Communication support for DME including development of strategic communications plan, development of the Raise DC Baseline Report Card, consultation on development and roll-out of the Master Facilities Plan, and general communications consultation for various projects as needed.

Collaborative Communications, LLC

Principal place of business: 1029 Vermont Ave. 9th Floor, Washington, DC 20005

FY 12: \$148,938.04

Purpose: To support the work of the Public Education Finance Reform Commission. Per legislation the Commission was responsible for studying and making recommendations on revisions UPSFF for consideration in the development of the FY13 budget.

The Finance Project

Principal place of business: 1401 New York Ave., NW Suite 800, Washington, DC 20005

FY 12: \$14,955.06

FY 13: \$105,263.01

Purpose: (1) Develop a data-driven estimate of the cost of an adequate pre-K-12 education; and (2) Recommend changes in the structure and level of foundation funding in the UPSFF to provide an adequate pre-K-12 education in the District of Columbia.

\*In addition to the projects listed above, in FY 12 DME transferred \$965,000 to the Department of General Services (DGS) to support a contract with Ayers, Saint and Gross, Inc. (ASG) and Fielding Nair International (FNI) for the development of the 2013 Master Facilities Plan (MFP). ASG's principal place of business is in Baltimore, MD and FNI is an international company with an office in Washington, D.C.

**Total spent in FY 12: \$1,227,910.10** (including the \$965,000 transferred to DGS for the MFP)

**Total spent in FY 13 to date: \$169,623.01**