

**COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION**

DAVID GROSSO, CHAIRPERSON

1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20004

To: Rick Cruz, Chair, D.C. Public Charter School Board
From: Councilmember David Grosso
Date: March 6, 2020
RE: FY21 Budget Oversight Questions

1. What are the agency's performance goals and targeted outcomes for FY21? How will the proposed FY21 budget serve to achieve those goals?

Below are the agency's performance goals and targeted outcomes for FY21. The performance goals are tied to the core efforts of the agency. The vast majority of the agency's proposed budget is dedicated to meeting these goals, excluding rent, administrative roles, and general supplies. The proposed FY21 budget will ensure the staff and resources are available to meet the targeted outcomes.

The agency may need to shift some of these goals given the impact of the current public health crisis on its authorizing work. For example, the number of PMF Parent Guides distributed may need to be adjusted or removed as a Key Performance Indicator given the anticipated shift to more virtual communication to families in FY21. Similarly, the number of task force meetings may be impacted as there will be additional task forces and working groups related to post-COVID-19 re-opening and recovery for all schools.

Key Performance Indicator	FY21 Target
Number of PMF Parent Guides distributed	6,000
Percent of charter school data available on www.dcpccb.org in comparison to FY20, in compliance with our transparency policy	10%
Number of Task Force Meetings PCSB attends	20
Percent Increase in Social Media Followers	10%
Number of charter LEAs receiving 5-, 10- or 15-year reviews	15
Number of Tier 1 charter LEAs with announced plans to expand or replicate	2
Reduction in expulsion rate for the five schools that had the highest expulsion rate in the previous school year	3%
Number of charter school campuses receiving an out-of-compliance warning from our Board for violating our Data Submission Policy	3
Number of Financial Analysis Reports issued	1
Number of charter LEAs whose fiscal health improved as a result of oversight efforts	4

2. Provide a detailed cross-walk between PCSB's FY20 Budget and PCSB's FY21 Budget. The crosswalk should clearly identify how budget levels have changed for each board function.

On the following page you will find the FY20 budget and a crosswalk of the adjustments made to each account for the FY21 budget. Significant changes include:

- \$496,019 net increase in administrative fee revenue related to the increase in UPSFF and projected PCS enrollment (DC PCSB again is only invoicing public charter schools 0.9% of their budgeted revenue instead of the allowable 1.0% administrative fee for FY21, saving them more than \$1M)
- \$120,000 decrease from grants (deferred revenue from clean drinking water funds has been exhausted and Georgetown grant ends)
- \$231,760 decrease in budget support from DC PCSB fund balance
- \$194,371 net increase in salary & wages and fringe benefits expense, including funds for health insurance, a Director of Finance, and staff position adjustments. We have eliminated cost of living increases.
- \$55,607 increase in facilities/upkeep for on-site IT support and a new lease extension
- \$112,500 increase in website development & maintenance for increased community engagement support/ outreach for schools and web development
- \$90,974 net reduction in school support (includes removal of one-time costs for school background checks, lead filter replacement and testing (supported by grants) and special projects, including the addition of \$200,000 for health and safety technical assistance for schools
- \$110,000 net reduction in budget reserves related to building renovations postponement, school closure and ED funding (\$250,000 was added to support new initiatives of the next ED)

Account Category	Account Group	Sum of FY20 Budget	Sum of Adj. for FY21	Sum of FY21 Budget
Revenue	01 - Fees	\$ 9,968,383	\$ 520,707	\$ 10,489,090
	02 - Fee Discounts	\$ (1,006,197)	\$ (24,688)	\$ (1,030,885)
	03 - Grants	\$ 127,500	\$ (120,000)	\$ 7,500
	04 - Misc., Sponsorship & Interest	\$ 43,000	\$ (3,000)	\$ 40,000
	05 - Fund Balance Transfers	\$ 896,201	\$ (231,760)	\$ 664,442
Revenue Total		\$10,028,888	\$ 141,259	\$ 10,170,147
Expense	01 - Project Consultants	\$ 730,198	\$ (17,043)	\$ 713,155
	02 - Other Program	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	03 - Salaries & Wages	\$ 4,826,982	\$ 143,677	\$ 4,970,660
	04 - Fringe Benefits	\$ 1,074,342	\$ 50,693	\$ 1,125,035
	05 - Other Personnel	\$ 357,000	\$ (20,000)	\$ 337,000
	06 - Facilities/Upkeep	\$ 736,184	\$ 55,607	\$ 791,792
	07 - Website Dev & Main.	\$ 238,706	\$ 112,500	\$ 351,206
	08 - Outreach & Publicity	\$ 90,000	\$ -	\$ 90,000
	09 - Professional Fees	\$ 71,200	\$ 8,000	\$ 79,200
	10 - Data Management	\$ 439,375	\$ (19,575)	\$ 419,800
	11 - Other Operating	\$ 493,927	\$ 28,373	\$ 522,300
	12 - School Support	\$ 610,974	\$ (90,974)	\$ 520,000
	13 - Budget Reserves	\$ 360,000	\$ (110,000)	\$ 250,000
Expense Total		\$10,028,888	\$ 141,259	\$ 10,170,147
Surplus/(Deficit)		\$ (0)	\$ 0	\$ -

3. Provide the following:

a. Projected PCSB gross budget for FY21, including all projected revenue (i.e. local, federal, private);

The projected PCSB gross budget for FY21 is \$10,087,252 and the revenue sources are detailed below:

Revenue	
Amount	Type of Revenue
\$ 10,489,090	Special Purpose Revenue (Oversight Admin. Fees) - assumes revenue of 0.9% (instead of 1.0%)
\$ (1,030,885)	less: discount of 0.1% on administrative fees
\$ 7,500	Private contribution from final yr. of Advancing Great Authorizing & Modeling Excellence (A-GAME) grant
\$ 40,000	Interest anticipated on money market account
\$ 664,442	Fund balance support
\$ 10,170,147	

b. Agency spend plan for FY21 that includes all source of funds (i.e. local, private, etc.);

		Sum of FY21
Account Category	Account Group	Budget
Revenue	01 - Fees	\$ 10,489,090
	02 - Fee Discounts	\$ (1,030,885)
	03 - Grants	\$ 7,500
	04 - Misc., Sponsorship & Interest	\$ 40,000
	05 - Fund Balance Transfers	\$ 664,442
Revenue Total		\$ 10,170,147
Expense	01 - Project Consultants	\$ 713,155
	02 - Other Program	\$ -
	03 - Salaries & Wages	\$ 4,970,660
	04 - Fringe Benefits	\$ 1,125,035
	05 - Other Personnel	\$ 337,000
	06 - Facilities/Upkeep	\$ 791,792
	07 - Website Dev & Main.	\$ 351,206
	08 - Outreach & Publicity	\$ 90,000
	09 - Professional Fees	\$ 79,200
	10 - Data Management	\$ 419,800
	11 - Other Operating	\$ 522,300
	12 - School Support	\$ 520,000
	13 - Budget Reserves	\$ 250,000
Expense Total		\$ 10,170,147
Surplus/(Deficit)		\$ -

c. A list of any projected agency surpluses or deficits in FY20 and FY21;

DC PCSB is currently projecting an FY20 surplus of \$563k that is driven by savings from lapse salaries, staff professional, as well as, organizational development, travel, training and reserves for school closure/student support. A summary of the projected surpluses and deficits by account group is provided below. The FY21 budget is balanced, in part by approximately \$664k from the DC PCSB fund balance and assumes no “new” funding for expenditures related to the purchase/ replacement of water filters on drinking water sources at public charter schools. LEAs will continue to be invoiced for only 0.9% of their budgeted revenue instead of

the allowable 1.0% administrative fee for FY21, which is DC PCSB's primary source of revenue. This will continue to allow schools to use more of their funds for direct impact, especially in the current pandemic response, instead of contributing to a potential oversight surplus. We are also prepared to spend additional money from our fund balances, as necessary, to assist the city and charter LEAs in response to COVID-19. This could include additional staff or contracted services to assist with health-related needs.

		FY20	
Account Category	Account Group		Projected Forecast
Revenue	01 - Fees	\$	8,176
	02 - Fee Discounts	\$	(818)
	03 - Grants	\$	26,186
	04 - Misc., Sponsorship & Interest	\$	(8,792)
	05 - Fund Balance Transfers	\$	-
Revenue Total		\$	24,753
Expense	01 - Project Consultants	\$	35,028
	02 - Other Program	\$	-
	03 - Salaries & Wages	\$	312,112
	04 - Fringe Benefits	\$	91,536
	05 - Other Personnel	\$	90,526
	06 - Facilities/Upkeep	\$	(35,005)
	07 - Website Dev & Main.	\$	(1,170)
	08 - Outreach & Publicity	\$	4,832
	09 - Professional Fees	\$	1,945
	10 - Data Management	\$	16,708
	11 - Other Operating	\$	42,297
	12 - School Support	\$	(80,252)
	13 - Budget Reserves	\$	60,000
Expense Total		\$	538,556
Surplus/(Deficit)		\$	563,308

d. Projected PCS budgets for SY20-21, broken down by source of funds; and;

Public charter schools are currently in the SY20-21 budget development phase. Annual SY20-21 budget submissions are due to DC PCSB on July 1, 2020. The most

recent PCS budgets are placed on our website (www.dcpcsb.org) here: <http://www.dcpcsb.org/report/school-budgets-fiscal-audits-and-990s>.

e. Projected facilities costs for each PCS for SY20-21.

Public charter schools are currently in SY 2020-21 budget development phase which includes projected facilities costs. Annual SY 2020-21 budget submissions are due to DC PCSB on July 1, 2020 and will include the school's projected facilities costs. Further, we have supplied each LEAs facilities cost from SY 2018-19, 2019-20, and projected costs in attachment 3e.

4. Provide the Committee with a narrative explanation and detailed spending plan for how PCSB will serve to support public charter schools in meeting the needs of students who are at-risk, including students homeless or in transitional housing; students who have been retained; students who qualify for public assistance and students at risk of dropping out of school.

DC PCSB continues the work we have done in the past to support schools as it relates to "at-risk" students. Public charter schools serve more than 17,000 at-risk students in SY19-20, similar to DC Public Schools.

We monitor schools extensively through the collection and analysis of data. Every month, our data team analyzes school data areas such as attendance, enrollment, withdrawal, and discipline, disaggregating this data for at-risk students. We follow-up immediately with schools that show large disparities in the performance of at-risk students.

In addition, DC PCSB publishes the Alternative Accountability Framework which evaluates public charter schools that serve a high percentage of students who have many risk factors for becoming disengaged such as being held back a grade, pregnant, interactions with the juvenile justice system, being identified by Child and Family Services Agency, or having been expelled from school.

Schools must also:

- (i) Have a mission that specifically expresses a desire to serve at-risk students or students with disabilities requiring high levels of support, and
- (ii) Serve grades that fall within the traditional PK-12 system with the goal of students earning a DC high school diploma. This framework is tailored to allow schools and the public to get a more accurate picture of their success in achieving growth for at-risk students.

DC PCSB also supports schools by working with other DC agencies to secure additional resources that can prove useful in serving at-risk students, particularly school nurses and mental health professionals. Currently, 96 of the 123 public charter

school campuses are served by a school nurse. Of those 96, seven campuses have a private nurse, and the school is picking up the cost. As noted above, DC PCSB is prepared to invest additional resources to assist the city and charter LEAs in coping with health-related impacts of COVID19.

DC PCSB has also been an active participant on the Coordinating Council on School Mental Health and served as co-chair of the School and Provider Readiness subcommittee. The subcommittee is responsible for matching public charter schools with the most need (top 25 percent of highest need schools) with community-based organizations (CBOs) to help provide more counseling and supports to students in need. Since the start of this school year, DC PCSB has hosted meetings to introduce public charter school leaders to the CBOs in an effort to provide schools with options so they can choose the best fit for their students. We have worked closely with DBH, OSSE, and DMHHS to facilitate the matching of CBOs with the public charter schools who are part of the top 25 percent with the highest need for mental health services across three cohorts. There are 15 public charter school campuses in Cohort 1 (launched in FY19), 27 campuses in Cohort 2 (FY20), and 40 campuses in Cohort 3, which begins in FY21.

The disparity in the provision of mental health services in public charter schools compared with DCPS is a source of considerable concern to DC PCSB. In FY21, we will continue our efforts to enhance the mental health services provided at public charter schools.

DC PCSB also has a staff member who participates in the citywide youth homeless task force, which works to support homeless youth in the District. However, OSSE serves as the primary support for LEAs with a high homeless student population and each public charter school has a staff member who is responsible for being the homeless student liaison.

The challenges that students categorized as being at-risk of dropping out of school face have been exacerbated by the COVID-19 health crisis in the city. DC PCSB is anticipating greater need for funding for LEAs to support students whose families are being impacted by isolation, job loss, illness and death. There will likely be greater needs related to wrap-around services and additional academic supports for at-risk students, in addition to the anticipated number of at-risk students rising as a result of COVID-19 impacts.

PCSB At-Risk Student Spending Plan		
Description		Estimated Cost
Personnel	<p>FTE's dedicated to supporting PCS' meeting the needs of at-risk students (% of job description dedicated to task):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School Finance Specialist (5%) • Financial and Academic Quality Data Analyst (10%) • Senior Manager, Intergovernmental Relations and School Support (40%) • School Quality and Accountability Data Analyst (10%) • Senior Manager, Financial and Academic Quality (15%) • Senior Equity and Fidelity Data Analyst (45%) • Equity and Accessibility Team Specialist (75%) • Senior Intergovernmental Relations and School Support Specialist (70%) • Chief Operating Officer (30%) • Chief School Performance Officer (15%) • Executive Director (5%) <p>Total Salary of Dedicated FTE's: \$1,452,071</p>	\$ 371,718
Data Management	<p>Technology Infrastructure:</p> <p>DC PCSB has one primary comprehensive data system, the Hub, to manage the collection, validation and reporting of student and school data. DC PCSB is continuously improving the system to lessen the burden on school staff and allow easier access to useful data about students and schools. The Hub is a QuickBase application that allows DC PCSB to manage the following student and school data and processes in one central platform:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School profile/contact information • Enrollment data • Demographic data • Attendance data • Assessment data • School Quality Report data • Data ticketing (to respond to school data inquiries) • Financial Analysis Report data <p>This system represents DC PCSB's ongoing work to collaborate with schools and the Office of the State Superintendent of Education to help reduce the data and compliance reporting burden for schools and improve data quality.</p>	\$ 289,800
Consultants	PMF Consultant Support - \$168,955 (33% at-risk support)	\$ 55,755
PCSB Total Spending Supporting PCS At-Risk Students		\$ 717,273

5. Describe the efforts planned, including associated spending plan and FTEs allocated in FY21, for Compliance and Oversight.

100% of DC PCSB's budget and 100% of DC PCSB's FTEs are involved in compliance and oversight. Given the centrality of compliance and oversight to all of DC PCSB's activities, it is not possible to break out individual activities by cost or FTEs. We increased compliance oversight in FY20 with a greater focus on public charter school transparency and our implementation of the School Transparency Policy.

As we move into FY21, we plan to review and revise, as needed, our oversight policies and practices to ensure we are addressing current needs given the current public health crisis and the potential for COVID-19 related school closures, rotational schedules and virtual learning environments. This includes the business rules within our four performance management frameworks: PK-8, High School, Adult Education, and Alternative Accountability; and also our approach to measuring LEAs' goals and academic achievement expectations as set forth in their charters. We will work closely with OSSE to align on data reporting from public charter schools.

The following are the major compliance and oversight efforts planned, as organized by functional department:

School Performance Department

- General review of all accountability measures and policies in response to COVID-19
- Pre-Kindergarten, Elementary, Middle (PK-8) Management Framework
- High School Performance Management Framework
- Adult Education Performance Management Framework
- Alternative Accountability Framework
- Collection and aggregation of schools' goals and academic expectations as stated in each charter
- 15-Year Charter Renewal Evaluations
- 5 and 10-Year Charter Reviews
- Special Education Quality Assurance Reviews
- Review of new charter applications
- Oversight of approved public charter schools prior to opening and in the first year of opening
- Data collection and analysis around enrollment, attendance, truancy, and discipline
- Enforcement of and technical support to schools on data collection requirements
- Efforts to reduce suspensions and expulsions and increase in-seat attendance
- Oversight of compliance with special education laws
- Oversight of compliance with residential and boarding program requirements
- Annual oversight of school compliance with laws and charter terms
- Receipt and review of schools' annual reports, including achievement of goals

- Receipt, processing, analysis, and follow-up of parent complaints
- Review of charter amendments and enrollment ceiling increases
- Notification to ANCs and oversight of school facility relocations
- Numerous task forces with schools to refine and improve our oversight and compliance work
- Oversight of school financial statements and financial strength
- Oversight of school contracting
- Oversight of school enrollment forecasts and enrollment numbers for purposes of budgeting and payments

Communications Department

- Communicates the results of our oversight to families and the community through numerous channels including DC PCSB's website and social media platforms, printed materials, events, and media/stakeholder outreach
- Oversees two-way communications with community members, community groups, and DC PCSB's Parent and Alumni Leadership Council to inform our oversight and compliance work
- Manages interactions with the Council to ensure their effective oversight of DC PCSB's oversight and compliance activities

Finance, Operations, and Strategic Initiatives

- Provides support to all departmental oversight functions
- Oversight of closure process upon charter non-renewal, revocation or relinquishment decisions
- Coordinates interaction between all city agencies, particularly DOH, DBH, and DDOT, in furtherance of our oversight role; provide support as needed to city agencies in ensuring health outcomes during COVID-19
- Liaison with MPD around issues of school safety
- Provides planning functions to inform oversight and compliance activities
- Directs DC PCSB resources to ensure effective compliance and oversight
- Supports systems and processes that allow for remote work, especially in response to current agency operating status of 100% telework given public health crisis

Legal Department

- Provides legal support and counsel to all departmental compliance and oversight functions

- 6. Describe all program expansions, enhancements, mayoral initiatives, or anticipated reductions for FY21. Please provide a breakdown by program and provide a detailed description, including FY21 spending plans, the target population to be served, and the name and title of the PCSB employee responsible for the initiative. For each program enhancement, please indicate if it is a new initiative, an expansion of existing services, or a restoration of prior services.**

In FY21, DC PCSB is anticipating a net increase in revenue from FY20 of \$564,743, driven primarily by the public charter schools' anticipated increase in UPSFF revenue. DC PCSB also plans to maintain its lowered administrative fee of 0.9% of the allowable 1.0%. DC PCSB does not anticipate any major reductions in services in FY21, and instead anticipates adding some expansions in programming.

We will continue our work focusing on the safety of our school environments. In FY21, we have budgeted over \$500,000 in school support, including potential COVID-19 protocol implementation support, safety audits and emergency preparedness support, and AED program management for all public charter school campuses. DC PCSB will also continue to invest in its website maintenance and outreach with over \$350,000 budgeted for increased virtual and in-person community engagement support for schools and web development to ensure families have access to critical, real-time information.

The FY21 budget also includes \$250,000 in contingency funding for any new initiatives of the next Executive Director, expected to assume the role in summer 2020. The budget does not include funding for lead filters and testing at public charter schools, estimated to be approximately \$675,000 annually, as the balance of deferred revenues received for this purpose have been exhausted. We will continue to request this funding from the city to ensure lead-free drinking water for all public school students.

While DC PCSB is not anticipating any major reductions or expansions to oversight, we are remaining flexible to shifting our work to meet the needs of the current public health crisis. We are currently evaluating our accountability and oversight policies and practices to ensure we are addressing student and school needs given the potential for COVID-19 related school closures, rotational schedules and virtual learning environments in FY21.

7. Provide in detail your reasoning for any projected enrollment changes for SY20-21.

DC PCSB worked closely with the public charter schools, the Deputy Mayor for Education (DME), and Office of the Chief Financial Officer (OCFO) to develop the enrollment projections for SY20-21. Each school submitted their initial projection, which was reviewed by DME, OCFO, and DC PCSB. Based upon historical trends and knowledge of the sector, the committee derived a sector-level projection, which considered the impact of all activities/closures/new school openings. Based upon the historical accuracy of each LEA's projection, we then reallocated to schools (at the campus level) to make our determination.

All things considered, we noted that there were several campuses that closed at the end of SY18-19, and two will close at the end of SY19-20. There are five new LEAs opening in the sector in SY20-21. Based upon these two significant factors, the overall impact was an anticipated slight increase in charter sector growth from last year.

We are aware of several potential impacts of COVID-19 on public charter school enrollment that could shift enrollment numbers up or down. We will work closely with OSSE and the DME to ensure that the city has a reasonable, fair and transparent approach to defining, determining and tracking enrollment as schools explore virtual learning and rotational schedules that will impact their attendance and enrollment patterns. Significant enrollment shortfalls would require further use of our reserves.

8. Through working with OSSE, more public charter schools received assistance to implement restorative justice practices in schools over the past few years. Provide the Committee with your plan for SY20-21 to further expand the pool of schools deploying restorative justice practices and deepen support for schools to implement this initiative with fidelity.

DC PCSB has begun partnering with the OSSE Division of Teaching and Learning (TAL) to ensure that charter LEAs have ongoing access to information about the many trainings and professional development opportunities being offered in areas such as trauma-informed culture, restorative justice, and social emotional learning. OSSE representatives recently joined the DC PCSB School Climate Brunch to share more about these opportunities with charter school staff. Furthermore, DC PCSB participated in OSSE's SY 2019-20 Discipline Working Group to identify additional ways that DC PCSB and OSSE can support schools in implementing appropriate disciplinary plans aligned with the law. DC PCSB will continue to be an engaged partner with OSSE in this work moving forward. Additionally, DC PCSB continues to work with schools to encourage lower rates of exclusionary discipline, even if not explicitly through restorative justice practices. DC PCSB monitors school discipline policies to ensure compliance with the Student Fair Access to School Amendment Act of 2018 and continues to flag and notify schools with disproportionate rates of exclusionary discipline, including among historically underserved student subgroups.

a. The latest data reviewed by the Every Day Counts! Taskforce indicates that attendance is trending negatively. Suggestions to improving in-seat attendance and reducing unexcused absences is to invest targeted resources to address the multiple underlying factors. The data also gives insight into the specific reasons why students are missing school. Provide the Committee with your plan to work with LEAs to utilize this data and to improve attendance, including any new initiatives for FY21 and the budgeting for them.

DC PCSB strives to understand the challenges preventing students from attending school and aims to share initiatives that may help overcome these barriers. One challenge commonly cited by schools and families is transportation. To that end, DC PCSB conducted an analysis of transportation options offered by charter schools in the city and shared those results with the Every Day Counts! Task Force. As a follow-up, DC PCSB invited one of the LEAs providing transportation services that yielded

strong results to speak at the February 2020 School Climate Brunch and share their best practices and lessons learned with other charter schools.

The School Climate Brunch, held annually, allows for robust discussion among LEAs about both challenge areas and successful strategies. As an agency, we try to create space for charter school leaders to share resources and expertise. Certain schools are invited to attend based on improved school climate indicators (including attendance), but all schools are welcome to learn and share. DC PCSB is regularly analyzing data to target schools that are successful, with the goal of sharing their best practices, as well as schools that are outliers, with the goal of raising awareness.

In addition, DC PCSB knows that many of our schools leverage partnerships with community-based organizations through Show Up Stand Out to target high-truancy students. DC PCSB is working with Show Up Stand Out to complete a data sharing agreement that would allow DC PCSB to examine the impact of this program on charter student attendance.

b. How will PCSB work with LEAs to increase wrap-around services available in schools for students and families in FY21, through the community schools' model or other approaches? Please include a narrative of the Board's plan for FY21 to encourage LEAs to spend a greater portion of their budgets on behavioral health clinicians in schools.

Public charter schools are responsible for setting their budgets based on the needs of their LEAs. DC PCSB works with schools to help them secure additional services and supports from city agencies. There are 20 Department of Behavioral Health (DBH) clinicians in 20 public charter schools in addition to the clinicians provided through the mental health expansion that began in 2018.

DC PCSB is a member of the Coordinating Council on School Mental Health where the committee is working to expand school-based mental health services. This is year two of the mental health expansion and there are 15 public charter school campuses in Cohort 1 (year 1), 27 campuses in Cohort 2 (year 2) and 40 campuses in Cohort 3, which begins in SY 2020-2021. Feedback from most schools on the expansion of services has been positive. Community-based organizations (CBOs) that provide the services are adjusting well to schools' culture and students are receiving much needed services. In response to the COVID-19 school closures and the shift to virtual learning environments, both DBH and CBO clinicians began providing telehealth services to existing mental health support students and new referrals from teachers and school staff.

DC PCSB also encourages school staff to participate in the suicide prevention and behavioral health training that is required every two years. We also connect schools to DBH when there is a crisis at a school that requires immediate clinical support. DC PCSB also worked with seven public charter schools to help them through the process of securing a school nurse through DC Health.

The following schools are a consortium partner with one of 17 Community Schools Incentive Initiative grantees this school year: E.L. Haynes PCS; DC Scholars PCS; Briya PCS; LAYC PCS; Youth Build PCS; and Monument Academy PCS. DC PCSB is a member of the Community Schools Advisory Committee. The committee advises the Mayor on the development of the Community Schools Incentive Initiative – including development of the framework and performance indicators; participate in the selection process of the grantees; develop recommendations on how all public schools can become centers of their communities by opening school facilities for nonprofit and community use; and develop yearly measurable performance goals to assess.

While we will continue many of the efforts described above in FY21 to support schools as they manage and plan for the mental and behavioral health needs of their students, we also understand that the current public health crisis and potential for extended virtual learning in FY21 will shift the needs of students and schools. Additional wrap-around services that we have worked with schools to provide to families include meals (individual and bulk groceries), technological devices for use at home (Chromebooks, tablets, laptops, etc.), access to broadband internet at home (Comcast Essentials and RCN) and Wi-Fi hotspot devices (T-Mobile). DC PCSB will continue to support LEAs in their efforts to increase these and other wrap-around services for students and families, with the flexibility required in response to the current pandemic as public charter schools determine their approach to learning (in-person or virtual) for FY21.

9. What guidance does PCSB provide to LEAs about engaging parents and teachers in crafting public charter school budgets?

DC PCSB continues to make our Financial Analysis Review (FAR) accessible on our website. The information published in the FAR is helpful for families to understand the metrics and measures used to evaluate the financial health of a school. This is used in conjunction with a school's audit, which is performed by a third party firm, to provide a detailed look into each school's finances. Both sets of information are published on our website.

Last year, DC PCSB adopted a new transparency policy designed to increase engagement and build relationships between schools and parents. The transparency policy requires that schools develop a policy pertaining to board meeting accessibility and post their board of trustees meeting calendar. The school policies shall include the number of open meetings the school plans to hold per year and the meeting calendar is required to be posted on their websites along with the school budget.

In addition, DC PCSB annually collects each LEA's at-risk spending plan which details the ways that at-risk students are supported. That plan is then posted on our website as well as the school's website, as detailed in our transparency policy. We will continue our work with school leaders and other stakeholders to develop a best practice guide for schools.

Finally, we are working with schools to develop a common chart of accounts. This initiative will be designed to give families a more accurate comparison of public charter school budgets. We hope that the totality of changes will increase engagement, improve understanding, and foster better relationships between schools and families.

10. Please describe three initiatives, programs, or projects currently underway within PCSB or individual public charter schools directed at preventing homicide in the District of Columbia. If you currently do not have any initiatives, programs, or projects currently underway directed at homicide prevention, please describe three ways in which PCSB could play a role in reducing homicides in the District of Columbia.

DC PCSB does not currently have initiatives, programs or projects directed at preventing homicide in the District of Columbia. As the authorizer of DC public charter schools, our goal is to ensure that students and families have access to quality education. We do provide support to schools by connecting them to citywide services that can help provide meaningful support to their students and families. We do this by participating on citywide working groups such as the Safe Passage Working Group and the Coordinating Council on School Mental Health. We also work closely with MPD during their investigations related to safety and security of students. We have also connected schools with MPD to participate in gang awareness and prevention training. DC PCSB often facilitates panel discussions on school safety with charter school leaders.

a. Please describe the resources currently allocated to these initiatives, program, or projects, and describe what additional resources PCSB would need to improve the efficacy or scale of these efforts. If PCSB is instead providing ideas about future work in response to the above question, please describe the resources you would need to implement these plans.

Two staff members of the intergovernmental relations team work on these issues with MPD, DBH and DME.

11. Please describe how PCSB works (or would work) collaboratively with other DC agencies toward the goal of reducing homicides.

DC PCSB and MPD have developed a close working relationship. DC PCSB supports MPD during investigations related to the safety and security of children attending public charter schools. DC PCSB assists MPD with addressing parent complaints and ensuring school safety. DC PCSB also works closely with Metro Transit Police to ensure the safety of students traveling to and from school. DC PCSB participates in daily calls with MPD and the education sector to monitor student activity. We have also connected schools with MPD to participate in gang awareness and prevention training.

DC PCSB is a member of the Coordinating Council on School Mental Health where the committee is working to expand school-based mental health services. This is year two of the mental health expansion and there are 15 charter school campuses in Cohort 1 (year 1), 27 campuses in Cohort 2 (year 2) and there will be 40 campuses in Cohort 3 which begins in SY 2020-2021. The hope is that providing more mental health supports to schools will translate to reduced trauma among students and families.

DC PCSB is a member of the School Safety and Safe Passage Working Group. The School Safety and Safe Passage Working Group was established to better understand and enhance safety-related policies that affect both public charter and DCPS schools, as well as the intersections with MPD, MTPD (Metro Transit Police Dept.) The work of this group is essential for ensuring that our students get to and from school safely. This working group is led by the DME.

a. Please describe how PCSB engages (or would engage) non-governmental organizations and the community at large on the issue of homicide prevention.

We do not currently work with non-governmental organizations on this issue.

12. Please describe how PCSB currently measures (or would measure) the efficacy of the aforementioned initiatives, programs, or projects. Additionally, if three metrics related to homicide prevention were added to your Key Performance Indicators (KPIs), what should those metrics be?

While we believe that any loss of life is unacceptable, and will continue to support the aforementioned safe passage and mental health work with schools and other city agencies, we do not believe that metrics related to homicide prevention should be added to DC PCSB's KPIs.