



Councilmember Elissa Silverman

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A PROPOSED RESOLUTION

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IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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To declare the existence of an emergency with respect to the need to establish a pandemic advisory learning council to advise District of Columbia Public Schools on guidelines related to remote and in-person learning, to require the establishment of in-person learning threshold metrics, to require reporting of specific education and public health data related to in-person learning, and to require randomized offers of COVID-19 tests.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the “Pandemic Learning Emergency Declaration Resolution of 2020”.

Sec. 2. (a) When the District of Columbia Public Schools issued re-opening plans prior to both Term One and Term Two of the 2020-2021 academic year, the initial announcements were delayed or rescinded due to health or labor relation issues, leading to frustration among families relying on the return and to preventable challenges for principals and other staff needing to plan.

(b) Regular meetings at the DCPS central office level that involve representatives of the affected agencies, labor unions, and families would improve transparency and provide an avenue for affected parties to advise DCPS on the minimum guidelines for in-person and distance learning.

(c) Through such collaboration at the central level, DCPS staff and families can reduce uncertainty about the likelihood of in-person learning plans being reversed and can improve the likelihood that centralized guidance leaves opportunities for meaningful input by school-based entities on the range of issues that are better addressed on a school-by-school basis.

31 (d) Both DC Health and the Education and Childcare Committee of the ReOpen DC  
32 Advisory Group have issued recommendations related to virtual and in-person learning, yet the  
33 DCPS Term 2 re-opening plan has not communicated either its specific adherence to or rationale  
34 for dismissing several recommendations, including ones related to public health and related to  
35 educational supports for English language learners or students with 504 or individual education  
36 plans.

37 (e) The DC Health and ReOpen DC Advisory Group recommendations for virtual and in-  
38 person learning relate to domains beyond education, including transportation, health, facilities,  
39 and labor, yet DCPS has only indicated collaboration across a few of these areas in their re-  
40 opening plans.

41 (f) The State Board of Education and members of the Council of the District of Columbia  
42 have called on DCPS to use the November 2020 delayed reopening to work with families,  
43 teachers, principals, and other affected staff to develop a plan that regains their confidence, and  
44 recent DCPS announcements have only gone part of the way toward doing so.

45 Sec 3. The Council of the District of Columbia determines that the circumstances  
46 enumerated in section 2 constitute emergency circumstances making it necessary that the  
47 Pandemic Learning Emergency Act of 2020 be adopted after a single reading.

48 Sec 4. This resolution shall take effect immediately.