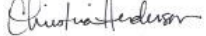


CHRISTINA HENDERSON

AT-LARGE DC COUNCILMEMBER

MEMORANDUM

TO: Chairman Phil Mendelson

FROM: Councilmember Christina Henderson 

RE: Request to Agendize Measures for the May 4th Legislative Meeting

DATE: April 29, 2021

I request that you place the following measures on the agenda for the May 4, 2021 Legislative Meeting:

- District of Columbia Public Schools 2021-2022 Funding Stabilization Emergency Amendment Act of 2021
- District of Columbia Public Schools 2021-2022 Funding Stabilization Emergency Declaration Resolution of 2021

These emergency measures would amend the Uniform Per Student Funding Formula for Public Schools and Public Charter Schools Act of 1998 to begin the process of rectifying proposed budget and staffing cuts at DCPS schools for next year.

In early April, a significant number of individual DCPS schools began receiving preliminary budgets for school year 2021-2022 with funding cuts that will necessitate staffing reductions. This is expected to trigger staff turnover and departures in the coming weeks as the current school year concludes.

These cuts will occur despite an announced increase to per pupil spending under the uniform per pupil funding formula, and are predicated in part on projected enrollment declines reflecting reduced attendance during remote learning this year. However, the predictability of enrollment figures for the fall is subject to question as pandemic impacts continue to improve. Further, the cuts will leave schools ill equipped to address anticipated learning loss and the social and emotional needs of students as they return to in-person instruction post-pandemic.

This legislation would require, on an emergency basis, that DCPS submit an operating budget for school year 2021-2022 that provides each individual school with at least an equivalent amount of funding as that approved by the Council last year. It would amend D.C. Official Code § 38-2907.01 to add to existing statutory requirements for the DCPS operating budget submission. This emergency action is necessary given the delayed timeline of this year's budget and the proximity of its resolution to the start of school in August.

The bill and emergency declaration are attached. If you have any questions regarding this measure, please contact T.J. Maloney, my Legislative Director, at tmaloney@dccouncil.us.

cc: Members and Staff, Council of the District of Columbia

Office of the Secretary