

**COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
NOTICE OF PUBLIC ROUNDTABLE**
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20004

**CHAIRMAN PHIL MENDELSON
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
ANNOUNCES A PUBLIC ROUNDTABLE**

on

Special Education Policies for Students with Disabilities

on

Wednesday, February 2, 2022 at 11:00 a.m.

**Live via Zoom Video Conference Broadcast
Chairman's Website (www.ChairmanMendelson.com/live)**

Council Chairman Phil Mendelson announces a public roundtable of the Committee of the Whole on **“Special Education Policies for Students with Disabilities”**. The roundtable will be held on **Wednesday, February 2, 2022 at 11:00 a.m.** via Zoom Video Conference Broadcast.

The Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE) provides resources and supports to assist the District's most vulnerable student populations as the needs of students with disabilities vary greatly. Part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) requires that students with disabilities be provided a free public special education and related services through an Individualized Education Program (IEP). While this is an important corrective step to best educate students, often students are two or more years behind before they are identified for this program. Also, we know that students in special education are, as a category, among the lowest performers on the PARCC assessment. In 2020, the Council adopted D.C. Law 23-191 to require schools, through OSSE guidance, to identify and remediate reading disorders such as dyslexia. Dyslexia affects roughly twenty percent of the population, as it is the most common of all neuro-cognitive disorders. The purpose of this hearing is to examine how OSSE, DCPS, and other schools are providing adequate special education to ensure that students with disabilities are academically successful.

Those who wish to testify must register at <http://www.ChairmanMendelson.com/testify> by 5:00 p.m. on Monday, January 31, 2022. **Testimony is limited to 4 minutes**; less time will be allowed if there are a large number of witnesses. Witnesses who anticipate needing spoken language interpretation, or require sign language interpretation, are requested to inform the Committee office of the need as soon as possible but no later than five business days before the proceeding. We will make every effort to fulfill timely requests, although alternatives may be offered. Requests received in less than five business days may not be fulfilled. If you have additional questions, please email cow@dccouncil.us or contact Destiny Riley, Committee Assistant, at (202) 724-8196.

The hearing will be conducted virtually on the Internet utilizing Zoom video conference technology. Testimony should be submitted in writing to cow@dccouncil.us in advance of the hearing. Written testimony will be posted publicly to <http://www.chairmanmendelson.com/testimony>. If you are unable to testify at the hearing, written statements are encouraged and will be made a part of the official record. Statements for the record should be submitted to cow@dccouncil.us or left by voicemail by calling (202) 430-6948 (up to 3 minutes which will be transcribed). The record will close at 5:00pm on Wednesday, February 16, 2022.