

A PROPOSED RESOLUTION

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

To declare the existence of an emergency, with the respect to the need to authorize a method for school budgeting for the District of Columbia Public Schools by budgeting the local schools first based on each school's previous year's budget, with the remainder to be allocated between central administration and system-wide school support.

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the "Schools First in Budgeting Emergency Amendment Act of 2022."

Sec. 2. (a) Fiscal year 2020 left thirty-one schools with less funding than the previous year, even though for many, their enrollment shifted little or not at all. Again, in Fiscal year 2023, almost four dozen schools were confronted with budget cuts that impacted their ability to maintain staff and programs critical to student learning. While the Council was able to restore some funding to many of those schools, the turmoil that schools and their communities experienced was traumatic.

(b) As a result of backlash regarding its handling of school budgets, DCPS' new budget model implemented in the 2022-2023 school year purported to promote equity, stability and transparency in school budgeting. Yet, we still saw many schools lose critical staff positions due to budget cuts with little transparency about the process or reasoning.

35 (c) Given the urgent need to stabilize schools and provide greater transparency around the  
36 school budgeting process for parents and stakeholders, it is necessary to revise the budget model  
37 such that it prioritizes schools first. Because the Act is not projected to become law until April at  
38 the earliest and the Mayors' proposed budget for schools is to be submitted to the Council in  
39 March, it is necessary to revise the method for school budgeting for DCPS on an emergency  
40 basis. By doing so, the Council ensures that the calculation therein is in place for the formulation  
41 of the 2023-2024 individual school budgets. Schools should not face another school year with  
42 budget instability.

43 Sec. 3. The Council of the District of Columbia determines that the circumstances in  
44 section 2 constitute emergency circumstances, making it necessary that the Schools First in  
45 Budgeting Emergency Amendment Act of 2022 be adopted after a single reading.

46 Sec. 4. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

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