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A BILL

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IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

To amend, on an emergency basis, the State Education Office Establishment Act of 2000 to establish a school support office within the Office of the State Superintendent of Education to focus academic improvement in the lowest performing schools.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, that this act may be cited as the “School Improvement Emergency Amendment Act of 2023”.

Sec. 2. Section 3 of the State Education Office Establishment Act of 2000, effective October 21, 2000 (D.C. Law 13-176; D.C Official Code § 38-2602), is amended by adding a new subsection (d) to read as follows:

“(d)(1) OSSE shall establish a School Support Office (“Office”) to implement and administer a school support Program (“Program”) beginning in School Year 2025-2026. The Program shall provide support and resources for continuous academic improvement to DCPS schools and District public charter schools whose academic performance is, at minimum, the lowest 5% of all public schools in the District.

“(2) It shall be the goal of the Program to substantially improve academic outcomes within 5 years of a school entering the Program. Subject to appropriations, the Office

32 shall provide local funding, in addition to any Formula or federal funding already available to
33 low performing schools, to qualifying schools that participate in the Program.

34 “(3) No later than September 30, 2024, OSSE shall submit a report to the Mayor
35 and the Council, developed in consultation with the State Board of Education, DCPS, the District
36 of Columbia Public Charter School Board, and other stakeholders, which shall:

37 “(A) Compare and assess school improvement best practices from other
38 jurisdictions;

39 “(B) Identify and explain the metrics that will be used to determine the
40 schools whose academic performance is, at minimum, the lowest 5% of all public schools in the
41 District.

42 “(C) Propose evidence-based strategies for continuous school
43 improvement models for the lowest performing 5% of District public schools, including:

44 (i) The processes and frameworks for implementing the models;

45 (ii) How each strategy or model will address professional
46 development for educators, direct coaching, and leadership focused on addressing instructional
47 practice; and

48 (iii) How utilization of the models and Office funding will align
49 with PCSB and DCPS accountability metrics and frameworks;

50 “(D) Provide recommendations for how the Office will work
51 collaboratively with qualifying schools and school stakeholders to select and implement
52 evidence-based strategies to significantly increase proficiency and growth in reading and math
53 through proven methods and improve other school designation metrics;

54 “(E) Provide recommendations on how the Office may strengthen a
55 designated school’s finances, financial management, policies, and culture;

56 “(F) Describe how a participating school’s improvement will be evaluated,
57 including the criteria for exiting the Program;

58 “(G) Explain how the Program will adjust to address a school that has not
59 demonstrated sufficient improvement to exit the program after 5 years;

60 “(H) Explain the funding and resources needed to successfully establish
61 and operate the Office and implement the Program for participating schools;

62 “(I) Set forth what additional authority OSSE will need, if any, to
63 implement the report’s recommendations and establish the Office and Program; and

64 “(J) Discuss any additional items relevant to the needs of the Office or
65 Program.

66 “(4) No later than September 1, 2025, and subject to appropriation, OSSE shall
67 apply the school improvement models developed by the school support office to participating
68 schools.

69 “(5) Starting September 30, 2026, and every 2 years thereafter, OSSE shall submit
70 a report to the Mayor and the Council on the improvement of schools in the Program. The report
71 shall address the effectiveness of the continuous school improvement models and provide
72 recommendations, if any, for program improvement, including a description of evidence-based
73 strategies developed or further refined in the years since the last report.

74 Sec. 3. Fiscal impact statement.

75 The Council adopts the fiscal impact statement of the Budget Director as the fiscal
76 impact statement required by section 4a of the General Legislative Procedures Act of 1975,
77 approved October 16, 2006 (120 Stat. 2038; D.C. Official Code § 1-301.47a).

78 Sec. 4. Effective date.

79 This act shall take effect following approval by the Mayor (or in the event of veto by the
80 Mayor, action by the Council to override the veto), and shall remain in effect for no longer than
81 90 days, as provided for emergency acts of the Council of the District of Columbia in section
82 412(a) of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act, approved December 24, 1973 (87 Stat. 788;
83 D.C. Official Code § 1-204.12(a)).