

Council of the District of Columbia
OFFICE OF WARD 5 COUNCILMEMBER ZACHARY PARKER
1350 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, NW, WASHINGTON, DC 20004

MEMORANDUM

TO: Nyasha Smith, Secretary to the Council
FROM: Councilmember Zachary Parker 
RE: Request to Agendize Emergency Measures for the October 6, 2026 Legislative Meeting
DATE: October 1, 2026

I request that the following measures be agendized for the October 6, 2026 Legislative Meeting:

- **Alternative Breakfast Service Model Emergency Declaration Resolution of 2026**
- **Alternative Breakfast Service Model Emergency Amendment Act of 2026**
- **Alternative Breakfast Service Model Temporary Amendment Act of 2026**

These emergency and temporary measures would provide Title I elementary schools and education campuses with more flexible service options to enhance breakfast participation rates. Under current law, Title I elementary schools and education campuses must take specific actions if participation in school breakfast is below 75%. In the first year where participation lags, such a school can receive a waiver from the Office of the State Superintendent of Education to implement alternative breakfast services models to improve participation; however, if a school's participation rate does not demonstrate incremental progress, the law requires breakfast to be served in the classroom.

While those requirements are well intentioned, they have led to unintended outcomes as a result of independent changes to teaching schedules. The most recent collective bargaining between District of Columbia Public Schools (DCPS) and the Washington Teacher's Union reserves the thirty-minute block between 8:10 AM and 8:40 AM for teacher-initiated or principal-led planning. Because classroom teachers cannot begin supervising students until 8:40 AM, an elementary school or education that is required by law to serve breakfast in the classroom cannot do so until 8:40 AM. On some campuses, the result is that all arriving students are being held in the auditorium until 8:40 AM; breakfast is then served in the classroom at the start of the instructional day—cutting into instructional time.

Seventy percent of DCPS's 61 Title I elementary schools and education campuses are impacted. For the 2026-2027 school year, 15 DCPS elementary schools and education campuses have been required to serve breakfast in the classroom for all grades. A further 28 DCPS elementary schools have received a waiver this year but may be subject to the requirement next year.

The emergency and temporary measures would permit elementary schools with breakfast participation rates under 75% to serve breakfast in the classroom, grab-and-go breakfast, a combination of both of those models, or breakfast in the cafeteria for on-time students and grab-and-go breakfast for late arriving students.

Copies of the filed measures are attached. For any questions or concerns, please contact Conor Shaw at cshaw@dccouncil.gov.

cc: Members, Council of the District of Columbia