

March 12, 2020

It is imperative that the city close the troubling opportunity gaps plaguing our DCPS schools so that the schools which primarily serve low income students of color can fully address the needs of their students. These investments will grow our DCPS schools so they are fully utilized at 65,000 students and as a result, save the general fund tens of millions of dollars per year.

To deliver equitable opportunities for all DCPS students and grow DCPS, the Council should:

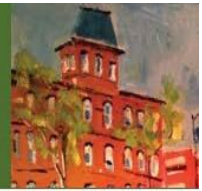
- **Increase operating funding to DCPS schools by \$40 million** ensuring equitable access to high quality schools no matter their location. This level of funding, for example, could help allow DCPS to ensure optimal class sizes, access to special classes for art, music, physical education, and language, in all elementary and middle schools; adequate educational counseling for middle and high school students, particularly where there are high levels of student mobility; and adequate staffing for special education and EL instruction and services. (Attachment 1). It could also help ensure DCPS At Risk funds supplement and do not supplant general education funding and ensure HeadStart can be delivered where needed.
- **Increase Public Education Maintenance funding to DGS by \$25 million** to meet best practices for good stewardship of facilities, do annual operations and maintenance plans for each of our schools, and ensure our billions in modernization investments last. These funds will enable DGS to plan and manage, not just react, and do timely routine and preventive maintenance, and minor repairs for DCPS buildings and grounds. The consequences of our under-investment in maintenance and repairs are felt in every corner of the city. (Attachment 2)
- **Develop the plan and fund the full modernizations of all existing DCPS neighborhood schools by 2028.** Our capital investment in DCPS schools has declined in recent years, when many of the schools in our low-income communities have yet to be fully modernized. Equity requires that we urgently complete the modernization of all our schools. Additionally, DCPS needs to open middle schools to close the middle school feeder pattern gaps in Ward 7 and Ward 1 and construct new schools where there is extreme overcrowding in Ward 3. (Attachment 3).

Under the FY20 budget, schools used \$22 million in At Risk dollars to supplant general education dollars. With the initial budget allocations to schools for FY21, the local school budgets are experiencing what is effectively a \$12.3 million cut compared to last year. (Attachment 4)

The Council can fund DCPS operating budget increases by:

- Adjusting the DCPS budgeted enrollment to account for midyear mobility, which puts DCPS on equal footing with the charter sector; and
- Taxing DCPS formula funds at the same level as the charter sector to fund building maintenance and operations (Attachment 5).

By making these investments, the city can respond to the clear call of its residents to ensure great matter-of-right schools in every community while closing significant opportunity gaps and, over the long run, reducing the cost of fully serving its students and communities.



Signatories of C4DC Position on DCPS Equity, Excellence, and Growth

Ward Civic Education Groups

- Ward 1 Education Council
- Ward 3 Wilson Feeder Education Network
- Ward 4 Education Alliance
- Ward 5 Education Council
- Ward 6 Public Schools Parent Organization (W6PSPO)
- Ward 7 Education Council
- Ward 8 Education Council

Citywide Education Researchers and Advocates



- 21st Century School Fund
- Decoding Dyslexia
- DC EmpowerEd
- In the Public Interest
- Senior High Alliance of Parents Principals and Educators (S.H.A.P.P.E.)
- Teaching for Change
- Washington Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights
- Washington Teachers' Union

Media Partners

- Education Town Hall
- Education DC

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Attachment #1: C4DC FY21 Proposals to Close Opportunity Gaps in DCPS Schools

  DCPS needs greater investment for equity, excellence and growth.		
Local School Budget Increases	Why this matters	FY21 Budget Increase
Fully fund enrollment increases and staff escalations.	The budget shortfall jeopardizes the progress DCPS schools have made toward improvements and equity.	\$12,300,000
Provide 100 additional related arts and general education teachers to ensure equitable access to specialty subjects in elementary and ed campuses and to ensure appropriate class sizes in all subjects in secondary schools.	Ensuring that all elementary and PK-8 schools have at least 4 related arts teachers, means that all students will have art, music, physical education and another language or specialized science instruction. This content and hands on experiences are critical for child development and to build reading and math skills. Increasing the teaching force for secondary schools will allow teachers to better respond to the mid year enrollment increases in DCPS schools--over 4,000 added students after October count in 2018-19. It will increase stability, potentially cutting down on the high teacher turnover we have. With a smaller total student load, teachers may be able to take on more enrichment activities after school. DCPS put in place the LEAP program which entails a smaller class load for one teacher in each content area, but left other teachers with increased class size.	\$11,000,000
Provide 25.5 more librarians so all schools have a FT library and all high schools over 600 students have a 2nd library position.	Research studies have well established that librarians contribute to literacy for students from elementary through high school and are critical to the development of research skills that prepare students for college and life. Every school needs a full time librarian and high schools need two library positions so high school libraries are open before and after school.	\$2,800,000
Provide an additional 16.6 guidance counselors at middle schools and PK8 education campuses.	Middle grade students need to create their educational pathways to graduation, career and post-secondary education options in time to get the supports they need to implement them successfully. Currently there are almost 300 students to each MS counselor, this should drop to 200 students to 1 counselor.	\$1,800,000
Increase custodians by 72 positions in MS, EC and HS to meet good stewardship standards.	Standards for ES are good, but MS, EC and HS are significantly below best practice of 20,000 gross square feet per custodian.	\$4,000,000
Increase funding for art, music, physical education, and science materials and supplies.	Cognitive scientists have well established that rich activities and experiences improve achievement in the basics. Teachers need supplies and materials to support art, music, science, physical education and another languages in order to give their students full benefit of these subjects.	\$3,700,000
Cover aftercare costs for local schools from central and increase wages for workers.	Aftercare is an important service to families, but should not reduce the amount of funds available for the school day academic program, currently it appears that about \$1.5 million, after the co-payments by parents, must be used from local school funds to pay for aftercare positions. These positions should not reduce a school's ability to pay for school day staff or other items. Additionally, the pay scale for aftercare teachers and aides should be increased.	\$2,200,000
Eliminate 1700 student wait list for aftercare in currently operating programs.	There is a 1700 student waiting list of students in the DCPS schools offering aftercare. This is an important service for families and should be supported outside of the local school budget by the central office.	\$2,200,000
TOTAL for DCPS Equity, Excellence, and Growth		\$40,000,000




Attachment #2: C4DC Proposal for DGS Public Education Maintenance Increase

Local School Budget Increases		Why this matters			FY21 Budget Increase
Fund DGS to meet good stewardship standards for planning and routine and preventive maintenance and for minor repairs.		DGS is not adequately funded to be good stewards of DCPS buildings and grounds. DCPS and DGS should be funded at 2% of the replacement value of the facilities for operations and maintenance of DCPS facilities, with an estimated \$65 million per year for maintenance and repairs. The gap in DGS funding, compared to most recent reports is about \$38 million. Proper planning, maintenance and repairs will save the city hundreds of millions of dollars over the life of their facilities. An increase of \$25 million will move DGS toward full funding, which should come when they have completed school maintenance plans for all DCPS public school facilities.			\$25,000,000
	% of Current Replacement Value (CRV)	Good Stewardship Custodial and Maintenance Amount	Less DCPS Custodial Budget	Needed by DGS for Routine & Preventive Maintenance	
Good Stewardship Standard	2%	\$98,859,856	\$ 33,645,351	\$65,214,505	
Estimate of Actual FY21 Expenditures	1.15%	\$ 56,731,562	\$ 29,731,562	\$27,000,000	
DGS Public Education Maintenance GAP	0.85	\$42,128,294.37	\$ 3,913,790	\$ 38,214,505	
* Used a \$400 per GSF current replacement value (CRV) and 2% of this as an annual budgeting estimate. This is very conservative, since neither DCPS, OPEFM, nor DGS have built or modernized schools for \$400 a GSF in today's dollars.					
DCPS School Types	# by School Type	Bldg GSF	FY21 Projected Enrollment	Bldg Capacity	
Alt	3	97,500	189	350	
EC	15	1,541,419	6,989	9,129	
EC2	2	719,248	2,129	2,470	
ES	64	4,509,292	24,470	29,649	
HS/STAY	18	3,617,499	10,130	13,808	
MS	14	1,794,824	5,964	9,133	
SEC	1	77,700	132	160	
TOTALS	117	12,357,482	50,003	64,700	
Gross Square Footage (GSF) in DCPS Operatin		12,357,482			
\$ per GSF New Construction Project Costs		\$400			
Current Replacement Value (CRV)*		\$4,942,992,800			

Attachment #3: C4DC Schools Needing to be included in the Capital Improvement Plan FY21-26

Ward	Schools	GSF	CIP TOTAL Proj Cost Estimate	SY18-19 Capacity	SY18-19 AgeApprop Stu Living In Boundary	Year Phase I Mod	Construction Years	2020-21 Proj. Enrollment	SY20-21 Proj. at-risk
1	BRUCE MONROE ES @ PV	82,192	\$ 41,096,000	609	767	2012	1916, 1930	467	214
4	LASALLE-BACKUS ES	55,011	\$ 27,505,500	400	1,448	2012	1957	347	196
4	WHITTIER ES	63,516	\$ 31,758,000	520	1,450	2010	1926, 1931, 1939, 1961	378	219
5	BUNKER HILL ES	69,400	\$ 34,700,000	577	1,170	2012	1940, 1943, 1948, 1953, 1965	247	124
5	LANGDON EC	117,308	\$ 58,654,000	500	1,370	2015	1930, 1960, 1972	419	213
5	LANGLEY ES	93,680	\$ 46,840,000	530	884	2011	1923, 1928	317	187
6	AMIDON BOWEN ES	70,800	\$ 35,400,000	400	464	2012	1960, 1975	335	231
6	LUDLOW-TAYLOR ES	58,639	\$ 29,319,500	493	398	2013	1969	486	136
6	PEABODY ES	35,391	\$ 17,695,500	240	655	2013	1880	221	22
6	SEATON ES	66,624	\$ 33,312,000	446	534	2011	1969	400	188
6	TYLER ES	72,954	\$ 36,477,000	564	301	2010	1949, 1968	541	202
7	BEERS ES	77,500	\$ 38,750,000	508	728	2013	1942, 1949, 1969	482	258
7	BURRVILLE ES	89,214	\$ 44,607,000	400	774	2010	1980	313	203
7	DREW ES	62,807	\$ 31,403,500	362	510	2010	1959	229	165
7	NALLE ES	65,418	\$ 32,709,000	400	886	2012	1950, 1960, 1969	344	259
7	PLUMMER ES	66,032	\$ 33,016,000	448	871	2014	1959	271	238
8	HART MS	149,164	\$ 74,582,000	1105	1,478	2011	1956, 1965	453	307
8	HENDLEY ES	66,329	\$ 33,164,500	479	1,961	2013	1959, 1966	341	308
8	JOHNSON JH MS	170,451	\$ 85,225,500	744	946	2015	1970	355	261
8	KETCHAM ES	92,343	\$ 46,171,500	325	934	2012	1909, 1940, 1941, 1970	350	269
8	KING M L ES	61,737	\$ 30,868,500	444	823	2010	1971	307	244
8	KRAMER MS	131,865	\$ 65,932,500	600	1,308	2015	1943	216	199
8	LECKIE ES	64,697	\$ 32,348,500	580	579	2012	1970	518	253
8	SIMON ES	59,891	\$ 29,945,500	325	1,025	2012	1950	253	176
TOTAL for Phase 1 Schools		1,942,963	\$971,481,500	11,999	22,264			8,590	5,072
1	Center City MS - 800 Euclid NW	146,000	\$ 43,800,000	700			1939, 1951		
7	Middle School to H.D. Woodson	120,000	\$ 60,000,000	600					
3	NEW Ward 3 CAPACITY	100,000	\$ 50,000,000	700					
7	Bard D.C.- HS	66,000	\$ 39,600,000	600					
4	Relocate Roosevelt STAY	100,000	\$ 50,000,000	700					
Total for Critically Needed School Space		466,000	\$ 203,800,000	2,700					

Attachment #4: Buying Power Reductions in Local School Budgets Compared to FY2020

	FY2020	FY2021	Difference	% Change
DCPS Enrollment is projected to increase by 6.1% 	50,003	53,033	3,030	6.1%
7.8% increase to schools after petitions to DCPS. 	\$749,201,862	\$807,892,538	\$58,690,676	7.8%
But the FY21 local school budgets are actually a 6.5% increase compared to last year's. (1)	\$758,646,096	\$807,892,538	\$49,246,442	6.5%
With enrollment increases and increased costs for school based staff, the FY21 local school budgets have a \$12,288,527 buying power shortfall compared to FY2020.				
179 General education teachers needed for DCPS projected enrollment increase.			\$20,893,008	\$45,179,294
159 special education teachers needed for projected enrollment increases.			\$15,426,666	
73 English Learner teachers for enrollment DCPS enrollment increase.			\$8,859,620	
2.5% Increased cost for DCPS school based staff.			\$16,355,675	
FY21 DCPS Local School Budget Shortfall			-\$12,288,527	

(1) DCPS increased FY 20 DCPS local school budgets by \$4,091,234 after the initial allocation in response to school petitions; and the Council further increased the FY20 DCPS school budgets by \$5,353,000 in response to community concerns about inequity.

C4DC local school equity, excellence, and growth proposal

DC can pay for the \$40 million needed in the DCPS local schools with funds dedicated to DCPS (\$40,000,000)

PAY FOR STRATEGY #1: Adjust DCPS projected enrollment to account for mid year DCPS entries and churn. **\$20,000,000**

This can be accomplished in two ways. Add the likely DCPS net gain in students midyear (500) and the likely net loss by charters (1300) (for a total of 1800) to the DCPS projected October school enrollment to put the sectors on equal footing or add a figure to account for the at least 1900 students over the budgeted figure served by DCPS during the course of the school year.

Back up notes for Pay for - Strategy #1	Budgeted Enrollment (1)	Students Served (2)	Difference
SY 17-18	50,243	52,164	1,921
SY 18-19	50,221	53,222	3,001
[1] Mayor's Annual Budget documents, DCPS chapter, Enrollment Table			
[2] See DC School Report Card entry for students served in DCPS			

PAY FOR STRATEGY #2: Pay Part of DCPS Utility Costs Outside UPSFF **\$20,000,000**

Equalize UPSFF Funds for M&O. If \$20 million more in DCPS M&O cost was paid outside the UPSFF, both sectors would use on average \$500 per student for M&O).

Back up notes for Pay for - Strategy #2	FY20 Total	FY20 Per Pupil
DCPS M&O		
DGS (Repair & Maintenance)	\$27,538,000	\$536
DCPS Central (Utilities) (UPSFF)	\$23,747,402	\$463
DCPS School Budgets (Custodians) (UPSFF)	\$29,731,562	\$579
DCPS M&O Total from UPSFF	\$81,016,964	\$1,578
Charter School M&O		
Reported M&O Cost	\$45,500,000	\$1,052
M&O covered by Facilities Allocation	\$24,300,000	\$568
Charter School M&O Total from UPSFF	\$21,200,000	\$484