

Government of the District of Columbia
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RESOLUTION REGARDING – DC’s FY 22 Budget on Education
May 2021

Whereas the covid-19 pandemic led to an interruption of optimal learning opportunities for students,

Whereas a whole-child approach in educational policy is essential to ensure that students have the equitable opportunity to thrive in an academic learning environment

Whereas consistency of teacher and staff will limit lack of academic loss and ensure the continuation of positive adult relationships,

Whereas Mayor Bowser has recently announced school budgets will not decrease as a result of the federal government,

Whereas the City’s response to COVID-19 has put significant pressures on its current FY 20 Budget as well as its proposed FY 21 Budget

Whereas The pandemic has led to an increase in mental health issue for students,

Whereas Ward 3 has the least amount of mental health professionals in the district per student,

Whereas DC Council has voted to remove MPD from DCPS schools, creating an opportunity for mental and physical health supports to meet the needs of students,

Whereas the pandemic has limited social contact between students which affects their academic and mental health,

Whereas wraparound services including nutrition services, affordable housing, and before- and after-care ensures the academic and social success of students,

Whereas the pandemic has highlighted infrastructure deficiencies that have an inability for students to learn inside a building

Whereas these deficiencies can be defined as sealed windows, limited functionality in A/C and

Heat, and outdated HVAC systems,

Whereas the pandemic has also highlighted an interest in outdoor learning as a viable option for student engagement

Whereas high speed internet is essential for learning in the 21st century,

Whereas students have been required to learn online which has highlighted the need for high speed internet,

Whereas lack of high speed internet can lead to a loss of academic progress both in in-person and online learning modalities, thus further exacerbating systemic inequities in DC schools.

Whereas DC is committed to a Vision Zero future and neighborhood school boundaries prioritize the ability to walk or bike to school,

Whereas Connecticut Avenue provides little space between vehicles and pedestrians as well as minimal bicycling infrastructure,

Whereas a changing Connecticut Avenue street design may have traffic pattern implications throughout the neighborhood,

Whereas ANC 3C, 3D, 3F, and 3/4G all approved resolutions for the implementation of Concept C of the DDOT Connecticut Avenue Reversible Lane Study, which includes protected bike lanes along Connecticut Avenue,

Therefore be it resolved that ANC 3F, at the recommendation of its Schools and Universities Committee provides the following statements and recommendations for the Mayor's proposed FY 21 Budget:

1. **ANC 3F recommends DCPS maintain or increase funding levels to ensure school student/teacher and paraprofessional ratios remain consistent or decrease compared to FY 2021, with particular focus on ESL, SPED educators, and librarians.**
2. **ANC 3F supports the \$5.8 million investment into a behavioral health clinician into each DCPS school as well as additional funding for nurses and social workers into each DC school.**
3. **ANC 3F encourages that the Mayor's budget increases funding for Out-of-School Time (OST), including funding for before- and after-care programs, to \$18 million.**
4. **ANC 3F recommends, in accordance with the DC State Board of Education's December 21, 2020 letter, that Mayor Bowser "identif[ies] and reprogram[s] no less than \$4 million dollars...to use toward creating safe, well-equipped, and weather-appropriate outdoor learning spaces" in ensure safe learning environments in DC schools. Additionally, ANC 3F supports the \$1.5 billion investment in modernizing DCPS facilities over the next 6 years.**

5. **ANC 3F supports the provisions included in B24-0200 The Internet Equity Amendment Act of 2021 and urges the Mayor to provide funding for the implementation of provisions in said bill to help address the Digital Divide in the classroom. and supports the \$38 million investment in student/educator devices, IT support, and infrastructure.**
6. **ANC 3F requests funding for the implementation of DDOT Connecticut Avenue Study Concept C and additional traffic calming measures, as outlined in the April 20, 2021 ANC 3F resolution, to help the city meet its Vision Zero goals and ensure students have safe streets for their commute to school. In addition, it supports the \$13.3 million investment in safe street programs like Safe Passage and Man the Block.**

Be it further resolved that; ANC3F authorizes Chairman Cristeal and Commissioner Appah to speak on behalf of the Commission on this subject with the Mayor's Office and cabinet, the DC Council, DCPS, DCPCSB, and OSSE.

This resolution was passed by ANC3F by a vote of (_ - _) at the regularly scheduled meeting

David Cristeal, Chair ANC3F

Copies of this resolution to be sent to Mayor Bowser, CMs Mendelson, McDuffie, Cheh, Bonds, Pinto, Henderson, Silverman, White, Nadeau, Lewis George, Allen, Gray, and White;

Sources Used:

<https://mayor.dc.gov/page/fy2021-budget-dchope--mayor-bowser's-commitment-give-every-washingtonian-fair-shot>

<https://www.dcfpi.org/all/dc-policymakers-must-make-bold-investments-to-address-longstanding-educational-inequities/>

<https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2021/01/18/953581851/ive-tried-everything-pandemic-has-cut-options-for-kids-with-mental-illness>

<https://www.nbcwashington.com/news/local/dc-council-votes-to-remove-school-security-contract-from-mpd/2355303/>

<https://dcist.com/story/21/04/06/dc-council-bill-pushes-for-affordable-and-reliable-high-speed-internet/>

<https://lims.dccouncil.us/Legislation/B24-0200>

[How Denmark got its children back to school so soon after lockdown - The Local](#)

[Education advocates push for outdoor classrooms for DCPS | wtsp.com](#)

[DC Safe Routes to School Program | ddot](#)

[Digital Equity Letter to Mayor Jan 2021.pdf](#)

<https://actionnetwork.org/petitions/restore-funding-to-out-of-school-time>