

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Office of the Deputy Mayor for Education



Joint Public Hearing on
“Education Research Practice Partnership Proposed Notice of Invitation”

Testimony of
Paul Kihn
Deputy Mayor for Education

Before the
Committee of the Whole
Phil Mendelson, Chairman
and
Committee on Education
David Grosso, Chairperson

Council of the District of Columbia
John A. Wilson Building
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Room 412
Washington, DC 20004
October 31, 2019
11:00 a.m.

Good morning, Chairman Mendelson, Chairperson Grosso, members of the Committees, Committee staff, and members of the community. I am the Deputy Mayor for Education, Paul Kihn. Thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today at this public roundtable on the “Education Research Practice Partnership Proposed Notice of Invitation.”

First, I would also like to thank the Council for its sustained support and engagement as we continue to work together to ensure that a strong research-practice partnership (RPP) is established in the District of Columbia. Our partnership on this matter has been a great example of both branches of government working together, to ensure the creation of a new entity, solely focused on producing actionable research aimed at the continued improvement of our public schools, with the goal of increasing student achievement and educational equity. The Mayor remains committed to transparency in our education system and supportive of the establishment of the RPP set forth by the “District of Columbia Education Research Practice Partnership Establishment and Audit Act of 2018.” We are excited to work on establishing this partnership designed to assist our city for years into the future.

The District of Columbia Education Research Practice Partnership will be an independent, non-governmental entity, advised by a 21-person committee charged with producing evidence-based research that our educators can use to inform practice to benefit our students, schools, and education system. Potential partners will apply to the District for this important work by responding to a notice of invitation (NOI), which is the subject of this hearing. The Office of the State Superintendent of Education has drafted the NOI required by the legislation to solicit the best possible candidates. We are happy to receive Council's feedback on the NOI prior to its issuance and look forward to today's roundtable as another opportunity to do so.

Thank you again for holding this roundtable today and your willingness to work collaboratively on establishing an RPP in the District. I look forward to answering any questions you may have. Superintendent Kang will elaborate further on how the NOI was drafted and its contents.