**AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE**

January 30, 2020

A PROPOSED RESOLUTION

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IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

23-231

To declare the Sense of the Council that the District of Columbia is committed to equitable funding for all schools.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the “Sense of the Council Urging Fair and Equitable Funding for District of Columbia Schools Resolution of 2020”.

Sec. 2. The Council finds that:

1. Funding for the District of Columbia public schools, both DCPS and charter schools, has not kept up with inflation, and, looking back 6 years, the system is currently underfunded by approximately $60 million.
2. We continue to see individual DCPS school budgets decrease, even when their enrollment has remained steady or decreased minimally.
3. Budget cuts are destabilizing for students; often teachers are let go and programs are reshuffled.
4. In FY2020, 31 school budgets saw a decrease. Twenty-six of those schools are located in Wards 7 and 8, highlighting a funding disparity of significant concern.
5. Neighborhoods in Wards 7 and 8 have the highest numbers of at-risk students, and over the past five years, the number of at-risk students in DCPS in both wards has increased, while the number of at-risk students elsewhere in the city has decreased.
6. Schools in wards 7 and 8 have lower shares of high-performing schools than other wards.

(7) Inadequately funding the education of at-risk students, coupled with reducing individual DCPS school budgets, contributes to declining enrollments in individual schools, leading to further student exodus ad funding cuts, and a cycle destructive to establishing quality schools. Sec. 3. It is the sense of the Council that:

1. Schools should be funded at a level appropriate to its students’ needs;
2. Budgeting for schools for FY2021 should begin with the previous fiscal years funding level, not less; and
3. The UPSFF for FY2021 should increase by at least 4 percent, and there should be additional funding for other school-related programming that addresses mental health, social emotional supports, attendance, literacy, and birth-to-three programming that improves academic success.

Sec. 4. Transmittal.

The Council shall transmit copies of this resolution to the Mayor, Chancellor of the District of Columbia Public Schools, State Superintendent of Education and the District of Columbia State Board of Education.

Sec. 5. Effective Date.

This resolution shall take effect immediately upon the first date of publication in

the District of Columbia Register.