

**COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
NOTICE OF PUBLIC ROUNDTABLE**
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20004

**CHAIRMAN PHIL MENDELSON
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
ANNOUNCES A PUBLIC ROUNDTABLE**

on

School Reopening and Academic Recovery: Hearing from Experts

on

Monday, May 24, 2021 at Noon
Chairman's Website (www.ChairmanMendelson.com/live)

Council Chairman Phil Mendelson announces the scheduling of a public roundtable of the Committee of the Whole on *School Reopening and Academic Recovery: Hearing from Experts*. The roundtable will be held on **Monday, May 24, 2021 at Noon** live via Zoom Video Conference Broadcast. The roundtable will only be broadcast live at <http://www.ChairmanMendelson.com/live>.

This roundtable will be the second in a series of roundtables on the reopening of the District's public schools and the Executive's plan for addressing student learning loss that has occurred during the COVID-19 pandemic. The purpose of this roundtable is to receive testimony from invited experts about the proper IT needs for distance learning and on strategies that the District should employ to assist parents in feeling comfortable about sending their children back to learning in-person. Since the District's main strategy for combatting learning loss is to resume in-person learning, it is vital that the District engage families and address vaccine hesitancy to accomplish this goal. Yet there will be some students who cannot return to in-person learning in the fall due to medical considerations, so it is important to ensure that those students have sufficient internet access. Because the Committee is seeking testimony from the public in a separate roundtable and this particular roundtable is to hear from certain experts, **this roundtable is limited to invited witnesses only.**

Testimony from each invited witness is limited to five minutes unless a longer time limit is arranged. Witnesses who anticipate needing spoken language interpretation, or require sign language interpretation, are requested to inform the Committee office of the need as soon as possible but no later than five business days before the proceeding. We will make every effort to fulfill timely requests, although alternatives may be offered. Requests received in less than five business days may not be fulfilled. If you have additional questions, please contact Christina Setlow, Deputy Committee Director, at (202) 724-4865.

Due to the COVID-19 public health emergency declaration, the roundtable will be conducted virtually on the Internet utilizing Zoom video conference technology. Although this roundtable is limited to invited witnesses, written or transcribed statements from the public are highly encouraged and will be taken by email or voicemail. Testimony may be submitted in writing to cow@dccouncil.us or may be left by voicemail (up to 3 minutes – which will be transcribed – by calling (202) 430-6948). Testimony received by close of business on Friday, May 21, 2021 will be posted publicly to <http://www.chairmanmendelson.com/circulation> prior to the roundtable. Written statements timely received will be made a part of the official record. Written statements should be submitted to cow@dccouncil.us. The record will close at 5:00 pm on June 11, 2021.