

A RESOLUTION

23-343

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

February 4, 2020

To declare the sense of the Council that the District is committed to equitable funding for all its public 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 District public schools, both DCPS and public 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 student 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 Fiscal Year 2020, 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 5 years, the number of at-risk students in DCPS in both these 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 and funding cuts and a cycle destructive to establishing quality schools.

**ENROLLED ORIGINAL**

Sec. 3. It is the sense of the Council that:

- (1) Schools should be funded at a level appropriate to their students' needs;
- (2) Budgeting for schools for Fiscal Year 2021 should begin with the previous fiscal year's funding level, not less; and
- (3) The uniform per student funding formula for Fiscal Year 2021 should increase by at least 4%, 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 to improve 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.