



Washington Teachers' Union

FULFILLING THE COMMITMENT TO BUILD GREAT MINDS

Strategic Framing: Local School Budgets

Local school budgets have seen staffing position cuts throughout the city. Schools are struggling to offer the bare minimum of courses that our students need, let alone giving our students the enriching, interesting and fulfilling educations they deserve.

Budget Pressures: The Facts

- According to DCPS, teacher prices went up substantially (~4% or \$4,000), but school budgets were not increased accordingly, causing many schools to have to cut positions.
 - **Give your school's example:**
 - Teachers are being cut causing: class sizes to increase, unsustainable workloads and more.
 - Elective offerings are being cut back: Students can't take an elective music course if only 1 teacher offers all of the graduation requirements only.
 - Social worker positions are being lost – our kids need social/emotional support in order to learn their best.
 - Counselors are being cut – our kids need access to their counselors with reasonable caseloads so that they can be prepared for their futures.
- In middle and high schools budgets the comprehensive staffing model computes the total number of general education teachers that a school receives based on the total number of kids without factoring in planning periods. This means schools are starting out with larger class sizes.
- Unfunded mandates like LEAP have taken teachers out of the classrooms while still costing the schools time, money and resources.

Our Collective Asks:

- **Verification:** Council must ask for verification on the reasoning behind the rise in cost of FTEs and projected student enrollment.
- **Increase:** The Uniform Per Student Funding Formula (UPSFF) should be increased by 3.5% with accountability measures to ensure the money enters local schools.
- **Transparency & Analysis:**
 - Now: Make sure At-Risk Funds are used to supplement not supplant student funding
 - Future: DCPS Central Office must provide a line-item budget that shows where all the money is going and evidence that it is effective.

Your Asks:

- What would your school do if you had additional funding?
- How will that improve outcomes for your students?



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Get to Know Your Budget

By the DC Fiscal Policy Institute

Find Your School's Budget at: http://www.dcpsdatacenter.com/fy18_initial.html

- How to find Council budget and hearing documents: <http://dccouncil.us/budget/2018>
- Where to find DC government budgets: <http://cfo.dc.gov/budget>
- FY 2017 DCPS Budget Development Guide: <http://www.dcpsschoolbudgetguide.com/>
- Public Charter School budgets, fiscal audits, and 990's (past years): <http://www.dcpsb.org/report/school-budgets-fiscal-audits-and-990s>
- DCFPI's School Finance Primer: <http://www.dcfpi.org/investing-in-our-kids-district-of-columbia-school-finance-primer>
- The C4DC local school blog and budget tool: <http://www.c4dcpublicschools.org/c4dc-blog/fy17-school-budget-tool>
- DC Open Government Coalition on how to file a FOIA request <http://www.dcoig.org/content/guide-using-dc-foia>
- DC Council Committee on Education: <http://dccouncil.us/committees/committee-on-education>

City's Budget Development Timeline for Fiscal Year 2018

Stages of DC Budget Development	When	Advocacy Opportunity
Budget Instructions Issued to Agencies	Fall 2016	✓
Office of Budget and Planning Finalized Agencies Budgets	Winter 2016	✓
DCPS Budgets are Finalized and Submitted as Part of Mayor's Budget	February 2017	✓
Performance and Oversight Hearings for All Agencies	February 2017	✓
Mayor's Budget Proposal Released	April 2017	
Council Hearings on Proposed Agency Budgets	April – May 2017	✓
Council Budget Mark-up Hearings, Two Budget Votes	May – June 2017	

