



Greetings,

Thank you for your recent letter regarding DCPS' budget and budget assistance request process. I appreciate you raising this important topic and your commitment to partnership around increasing transparency for DCPS. Unfortunately, DCPS does not have this information available at this time, but we can commit to looking into sharing it for future budget cycles.

Transparency and clarity are important to me. The FY20 budget is grounded in feedback from students, educators, and families. We want our community to understand how we develop our school budgets and the costs of operating our schools. For this reason, we created a [Community Budget Guide](#) and included school-related expenses on school budgets, such as school security costs. I intend to continue sharing how our budget allocations shift each year and how our school funding is allocated.

For the FY20 Budget, we have fully funded all schools through the Comprehensive Schools Model. 56 schools submitted requests for approximately \$10.6 million of additional assistance above what was provided through the Comprehensive Staffing Model. As of the end of March, \$3.7 million was granted to schools. In prioritizing these funds, DCPS considers the following factors: Schools' ESSA star ratings, their percent of at-risk population, recommendations from instructional superintendents and chiefs of schools, evidence of return on investment, and additional contextual information (e.g. last year's budgets and year over year changes; specialized programming). Additionally, we monitor enrollment closely over the spring and summer, and if any school's enrollment grows beyond what is projected for the upcoming school year, we will provide additional teachers and associated funding to support enrollment.

DCPS agrees that we should work toward providing more information for schools and stakeholders about the budget assistance request process. This Spring, for the first time, DCPS will publish comparisons between initial and submitted budgets. Families will be able to see their school's budget allocation and how every dollar is spent. I am also committed to evaluating what the right funding model is for DCPS as we move forward. Any changes will be made only after considering community input.

We are available to answer any further questions you may have and appreciate your interest in and support for DCPS schools. I have cc'd Dr. Amy Maisterra, Deputy Chancellor of Innovation and Systems Improvement, who is available to address any additional questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Dr. Lewis D. Ferebee
Chancellor, D.C. Public Schools