

# **DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

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## **Office of the Chancellor**

825 North Capitol Street, NE, 9<sup>th</sup> Floor, Washington, D.C., 20002-1994  
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May 12, 2009

The Honorable Vincent C. Gray, Chairman  
The Council of the District of Columbia  
John A. Wilson Building  
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, Suite 504  
Washington D.C. 20004

Dear Chairman Gray:

I am writing to provide facts that explain the operational impact of the budget amendment Council unveiled and adopted today.

Whether or not this action is called a budget “cut,” the fact is that Council’s action reduces the DCPS budget by \$27.5 million. As a direct consequence, DCPS is required to reduce the budget of local schools. The proposed local school budgets are the product of an extensive, collaborative process involving principals, parents, and teachers participating on school resource teams—a process that you have demanded and that we have implemented. We engaged individual school communities and accelerated the development of local school budgets so that parents would know well in advance a school’s programs and offerings for next school year. We engaged schools early and empowered them to make decisions at the school level. The Council amendment forces us to gut those budgets with less than a month left in the school year.

I also have no doubt that the Council action will negatively impact school opening in August 2009. The early and comprehensive school budget process has allowed us to identify school-based teacher vacancies. As such, we have now begun to recruit teachers to fill these positions to ensure a smooth and successfully opening in August. The Council Amendment forces us to stop this work, reduce school budgets, revise school positions and begin again the recruitment process. We will lose precious time to hire qualified teachers.

The funding set-aside will impact every school in the District and their ability to recruit and hire teachers to fill the positions selected by the individual school communities. Under the amendment passed, DCPS no longer has the \$27.5 million allocated to schools as part of the FY 2010 budget. While it may be restored well after the school year opens, it is simply too late to staff schools. As such, we have no choice but to reduce school budgets and eliminate positions now.

A reduction of \$27.5 million will result in a reduction of approximately \$ 623 per pupil on average across various grade levels and types. Elementary schools would be forced

to reduce its staff by 2.7 teachers; middle schools by 2.7 teachers, PK-8 schools by 2.5 teachers and senior high schools would stand to lose 5.5 teachers. A \$27.5 million reduction equates to 338 teachers.

The chart below provides a sampling of the impact a reduction of \$27.5 million would have on individual DCPS schools:

School	Ward	\$\$ Reduction	ET15
Bruce-Monroe Elementary School	1	(222,503)	(2.7)
Ross Elementary School	2	(101,591)	(1.3)
Deal Middle School	3	(526,030)	(6.5)
Wilson High School	3	(908,710)	(11.2)
Shepherd Elementary School	4	(194,456)	(2.4)
Brookland Education Campus	5	(259,898)	(3.2)
Brent Elementary School	6	(158,931)	(2.0)
Randle-Highlands ES	7	(242,447)	(3.0)
Hart Middle School	8	(243,071)	(3.0)

Finally, your claim that the \$27.5 million will be available in October is based on inaccurate information. While the certified enrollment census is conducted in October, the results of the audit are not completed and released until the following January. Adding staff January 2010 to support students that have attended schools since the prior August 2009 is of very little value.

I urge your support for a DCPS budget that includes adequate resources with which to plan for a successful 2009-10 school year, and therefore request that Council withdraw today's amendment to the FY 2010 Budget Request Act of 2009.

Sincerely,



Michelle Rhee  
Chancellor

Cc: Mayor Adrian M. Fenty  
Dan Tangherlini, City Administrator  
All Councilmembers

Ward	\$ Reduction	Teacher Reduction
<b>1</b>	<b>\$ (3,170,512)</b>	<b>(3.2)</b>
Bancroft Elementary School	\$ (255,536)	(3.2)
Bruce-Monroe Elementary School	\$ (222,503)	(2.7)
Cardozo High School	\$ (468,067)	(5.8)
Cleveland Elementary School	\$ (174,512)	(2.2)
Columbia Heights Education Campus	\$ (813,975)	(10.0)
Cooke H.D. Elementary School	\$ (143,973)	(1.8)
Coolidge High School	\$ (376,448)	(4.6)
Raymond Elementary School	\$ (204,429)	(2.5)
Reed Learning Center	\$ (209,415)	(2.6)
Tubman Elementary School	\$ (301,657)	(3.7)
<b>2</b>	<b>\$ (2,011,876)</b>	<b>(2.3)</b>
Ellington School of the Arts	\$ (309,759)	(3.8)
Francis-Stevens Education Campus	\$ (116,549)	(1.4)
Garrison ES	\$ (124,028)	(1.5)
Hardy Middle School	\$ (221,880)	(2.7)
Hyde Elementary School	\$ (145,219)	(1.8)
Montgomery Elementary School	\$ (126,521)	(1.6)
Ross Elementary School	\$ (101,591)	(1.3)
School WWW High School	\$ (274,233)	(3.4)
Seaton Elementary School	\$ (162,670)	(2.0)
Shaw MS @ Garnet-Patterson Middle School	\$ (205,675)	(2.5)
Thomson Elementary School	\$ (223,750)	(2.8)
<b>3</b>	<b>\$ (3,337,543)</b>	<b>(4.1)</b>
Deal Middle School	\$ (526,030)	(6.5)
Eaton Elementary School	\$ (248,680)	(3.1)
Hearst Elementary School	\$ (117,172)	(1.4)
Horace Mann Elementary School	\$ (173,889)	(2.1)
Janney Elementary School	\$ (284,206)	(3.5)
Key Elementary School	\$ (204,429)	(2.5)
Murch Elementary School	\$ (294,178)	(3.6)
Oyster Elementary	\$ (381,434)	(4.7)
Stoddert Elementary School	\$ (198,819)	(2.5)
Wilson High School	\$ (908,710)	(11.2)
<b>4</b>	<b>\$ (3,256,522)</b>	<b>(3.1)</b>
Barnard Elementary School	\$ (209,415)	(2.6)
Brightwood Education Campus	\$ (280,466)	(3.5)
Dunbar High School	\$ (502,969)	(6.2)
Lafayette Elementary School	\$ (362,736)	(4.5)
Macfarland Middle School	\$ (109,070)	(1.3)
Powell Educational Campus	\$ (133,377)	(1.6)
Roosevelt High School	\$ (454,355)	(5.6)
Roosevelt S.T.A.Y. High School	\$ (171,396)	(2.1)
Shepherd Elementary School	\$ (194,456)	(2.4)
Takoma Educational Center	\$ (183,238)	(2.3)
Truesdell Education Campus	\$ (249,303)	(3.1)

Ward	\$ Reduction	Teacher Reduction
West Education Campus	\$ (149,582)	(1.8)
Whittier Education Campus	\$ (256,159)	(3.2)
	\$ (3,897,854)	(2.7)
Brookland Education Campus	\$ (259,898)	(3.2)
Choice Academy	\$ (124,652)	(1.5)
Dunbar Pre-Engineering High School	\$ (46,744)	(0.6)
Eastern Senior High School	\$ (259,898)	(3.2)
Emery Education Campus	\$ (168,903)	(2.1)
Hugh M. Browne Education Campus	\$ (268,624)	(3.3)
John Burroughs Education Campus	\$ (191,340)	(2.4)
Langdon Elementary School	\$ (284,206)	(3.5)
LaSalle-Backus Education Campus	\$ (202,559)	(2.5)
Leckie Elementary School	\$ (200,689)	(2.5)
Luke C. Moore Academy	\$ (249,303)	(3.1)
Marshall Educational Center	\$ (109,693)	(1.4)
McKinley Technology High School	\$ (505,462)	(6.2)
Noyes Education Campus	\$ (215,647)	(2.7)
Phelps High School	\$ (177,005)	(2.2)
Shaed Education Campus	\$ (107,200)	(1.3)
Spingarn High School	\$ (370,838)	(4.6)
Spingarn Stay High School	\$ (155,191)	(1.9)
	\$ (3,426,048)	(2.6)
Amidon Elementary School	\$ (193,833)	(2.4)
Ballou Senior High School	\$ (805,872)	(9.9)
Big Picture	\$ (102,838)	(1.3)
Brent Elementary School	\$ (158,931)	(2.0)
Eliot / Hine Middle School	\$ (135,870)	(1.7)
Jefferson Middle School	\$ (243,071)	(3.0)
Ludlow-Taylor Elementary School	\$ (101,591)	(1.3)
Maury Elementary School	\$ (162,670)	(2.0)
Miner Elementary	\$ (291,685)	(3.6)
Payne Elementary School	\$ (126,521)	(1.6)
School-Within-School @ Peabody	\$ (52,354)	(0.6)
Stuart-Hobson Middle School	\$ (245,564)	(3.0)
Tyler Elementary School	\$ (145,842)	(1.8)
Walker-Jones Education Campus	\$ (124,028)	(1.5)
Watkins Elementary School	\$ (334,066)	(4.1)
Wilson J. O. Elementary School	\$ (201,312)	(2.5)
	\$ (3,374,941)	(2.1)
Aiton Elementary School	\$ (178,252)	(2.2)
Beers Elementary School	\$ (198,196)	(2.4)
Burrville Elementary School	\$ (201,312)	(2.5)
Davis Elementary School	\$ (135,870)	(1.7)
Drew Elementary School	\$ (126,521)	(1.6)
Harris, C.W. Elementary School	\$ (119,665)	(1.5)
Houston Elementary School	\$ (158,931)	(2.0)

Ward	\$ Reduction	Teacher Reduction
Kelly Miller Middle School	\$ (223,126)	(2.8)
Kenilworth Elementary School	\$ (119,665)	(1.5)
Kimball Elementary School	\$ (185,731)	(2.3)
Nalle Elementary School	\$ (223,126)	(2.8)
Plummer Elementary School	\$ (129,638)	(1.6)
Randle-Highlands ES	\$ (242,447)	(3.0)
River Terrace Elementary School	\$ (120,912)	(1.5)
Ronald H. Brown Middle School	\$ (177,628)	(2.2)
Smothers Elementary School	\$ (125,275)	(1.5)
Sousa Middle School	\$ (167,656)	(2.1)
Woodson Academy @ Ron Brown	\$ (152,075)	(1.9)
Woodson Business & Finance High School	\$ (73,544)	(0.9)
Woodson H.D. SHS@Fletcher-Johnson	\$ (315,368)	(3.9)
<b>\$</b>	<b>(5,024,704)</b>	<b>(2.8)</b>
Anacostia Senior High School	\$ (585,862)	(7.2)
Ballou S.T.A.Y. High School	\$ (470,560)	(5.8)
Benjamin Banneker Academic High School	\$ (268,624)	(3.3)
Ferebee-Hope Elementary School	\$ (198,819)	(2.5)
Garfield ES	\$ (162,047)	(2.0)
Hart Middle School	\$ (243,071)	(3.0)
Hendley Elementary School	\$ (175,135)	(2.2)
Johnson Middle School	\$ (164,540)	(2.0)
Ketcham Elementary School	\$ (168,280)	(2.1)
King M L Elementary School	\$ (244,940)	(3.0)
Kramer Middle School	\$ (202,559)	(2.5)
Malcolm X Elementary School	\$ (136,493)	(1.7)
Moten @ Wilkinson Elementary School	\$ (279,843)	(3.5)
Orr Elementary School	\$ (170,149)	(2.1)
Patterson Elementary	\$ (287,945)	(3.6)
Savoy Elementary School	\$ (202,559)	(2.5)
Simon Elementary School	\$ (217,517)	(2.7)
Stanton Elementary School	\$ (182,615)	(2.3)
Terrell Mc Elementary School	\$ (140,233)	(1.7)
Thomas Elementary School	\$ (143,349)	(1.8)
Turner Elementary School	\$ (191,963)	(2.4)
Winston Education Campus	\$ (187,601)	(2.3)
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$ (27,500,000)</b>	<b>(2.8)</b>