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2 Councilmember Robert C. White, Jr.
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Councilmember Charles Allen

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6 A BILL
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11 IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
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16 To require, on an emergency basis, the Chancellor of the District of Columbia Public Schools to
17 direct the School Without Walls High School to allow eligible students who have not
18 already taken the school's admissions test to take the admissions test and to complete an
19 interview process, if the staff determine that the eligible student's test score on the
20 admissions test is sufficient; and to require the Chancellor of the District of Columbia
21 Schools to notify all eligible students of the date and time of any additional admissions
22 tests held and that all eligible students who have not already taken the admissions test
23 may take the admissions test.
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25 BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this
26 act may be cited as the "Fair Access to Selective High Schools Emergency Act of 2019".

27 Sec. 2. Fair access to selective high schools.

28 (a) During the 2018-2019 school year, the Chancellor of the District of Columbia Public
29 Schools shall direct School Without Walls High School ("SWW") to allow eligible students to
30 take the SWW admissions test and to complete an interview process, if SWW staff determine
31 that the eligible student's score on the SWW admissions test is sufficient.

32 (b) The Chancellor of the District of Columbia Schools shall notify, by electronic mail or
33 telephone, all eligible students of the following:

34 (1) The date and time of any additional SWW admissions tests scheduled pursuant
35 to subsection (a) of this section; and

36 (2) That all eligible students may take the SWW admissions test, pursuant to

37 subsection (a) of this section.

38 (c) For the purposes of this act, the term:

39 (1) "Eligible student" means a student who:

40 (A) During the 2018-2019 school year, is in the 8th grade at a public
41 school or a public charter school;

42 (B) Before February 2, 2019, submitted a complete application on the My
43 School DC website for admission, starting in the 2019-2020 school year, to SWW, and who has
44 not taken the SWW admissions test;

45 (C) Had a 3.0 or higher grade point average on their final school year
46 2017-2018 report card; and

47 (D) Met the admissions requirements for SWW listed on the My School
48 DC website, or were among the top 15 students in his or her school's 8th grade class.

49 (2) "Public school" means a school operated by the District of Columbia Public
50 Schools, established by section 102 of the District of Columbia Public Schools Agency
51 Establishment Act of 2007, effective June 12, 2007 (D.C. Law 17-9; D.C. Official Code § 38-
52 171).

53 (3) "Public charter school" shall have the same meaning as provided in section
54 2002(29) of the District of Columbia School Reform Act of 1995, approved April 26, 1996 (110
55 Stat. 1321 [226]; D.C. Official Code § 38-1800.02(29)).

56 Sec. 3. Fiscal impact statement.

57 The Council adopts the fiscal impact statement of the Budget Director as the fiscal impact
58 statement required by section 4a of the General Legislative Procedures Act of 1975, approved
59 October 16, 2006 (120 Stat. 2038; D.C. Official Code § 1-301.47a).

60 Sec. 4. Effective date.

61 This act shall take effect following approval by the Mayor (or in the event of veto by the
62 Mayor, action by the Council to override the veto), and shall remain in effect for no longer than
63 90 days, as provided for emergency acts of the Council of the District of Columbia in section
64 412(a) of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act, approved December 24, 1973 (87 Stat. 788;
65 D.C. Official Code § 1-204.12(a)).

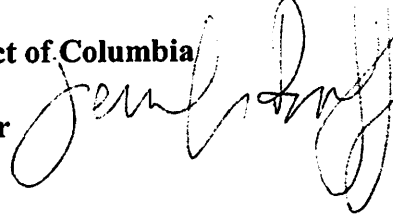
COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Office of the Budget Director



Jennifer Budoff
 Budget Director

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

TO: The Honorable Phil Mendelson
 Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia

FROM: Jennifer Budoff, Budget Director 

DATE: February 19, 2019

SHORT TITLE: Fair Access to Selective High Schools Emergency Act of 2019

TYPE: Emergency

REQUESTED BY: Councilmember Charles Allen

Conclusion

The "Fair Access to Selective High Schools Emergency Act of 2019" will not have an impact on the FY 2019 budget and financial plan. The expected de minimus costs of approximately \$10,000 or less will be able to be absorbed by the District of Columbia Public Schools (DCPS).

Background

DCPS has eight (8) selective high schools as citywide options without boundaries, which includes School Without Walls High School (SWW). Students are admitted to these schools based on various admissions requirements and selection criteria. Eighth (8th) grade students in public and public charter schools submitted applications to SWW through the My Schools DC website application before February 2, 2019. In previous school years, SWW required applicants to meet the following criteria below.

School	Minimum GPA	Minimum Standardized Test Requirements	Essay	Admission Process	Recommendations	Accepted Applications for Grades
School Without Walls	3.0 in core subjects on final SY17-19 report card	"Met" or "Exceeded Expectations" in PARCC (Math and Reading) or any standardized test	None	- Application Review - Admissions Test - Parent Interview	None	9th - 12th

SWW staff informed prospective students and parents at open houses that the top fifteen (15) eighth (8th) grade students in all public and public charter schools would be allowed to apply for school year 2019 – 2020 admissions, regardless of meeting the minimum standardized test

requirements. Approximately 224 families applied to SWW under this premise, but received a written notice on February 7, 2019 that their applications would not be considered due to a communication error.

This emergency legislation would require DCPS to allow the eligible students that applied before February 2, 2019, to be considered for admissions. This would allow eligible students to continue the admissions process, which includes taking the admissions test and proceeding to the interview, if SWW staff determine that the admissions test score is sufficient. Eligible students under this emergency legislation are defined as below:

- During the 2018-2019 school year, is in the 8th grade at a public school or a public charter school;
- Before February 2, 2019, submitted a complete application on the My School DC website for admission, starting in the 2019-2020 school year, to SWW, and who has not taken the SWW admissions test; and
- Met the admissions requirements for SWW listed on the My School DC website, or were among the top 15 students in their school's 8th grade class and had a 3.0 grade point average on their final school year 2017-2018 report card.

Analysis of Impact on Spending

This emergency legislation will not have an impact on the FY19 budget and financial plan.

DCPS appears to have already conducted the application review for eligible students. The Deputy Mayor for Education confirmed the number to be approximately 224 students and families during the performance oversight hearing on February 15, 2019.

Some of the selective high schools reduce the admissions process' administrative premium and overtime costs by offering staff the option to participate in exchange for receiving Commitment to School Community (CSC) credits. IMPACT evaluations may require certain staff to complete CSC credits as a part of their school leader-assessed measure. This option could allow schools to conduct admissions processes after normal business hours at no cost.

DCPS assumes the admissions test will take approximately 5 hours. SWW's website clarifies that the test is untimed, but states the average test taking length to be one and half (1.5) to two (2) hours.¹ DCPS also assumes that interviews will take approximately one (1) hour per student and includes all eligible students in its cost estimate. The Office of the Budget Director confirmed with SWW that interviews are approximately fifteen (15) minutes per student and received an estimated lower number of students that would advance to the interview stage. More importantly, SWW confirmed that eligible students' interviews could be absorbed during the already scheduled interview date on March 2, 2019. This means there should be no additional costs to provide interviews for eligible students under this emergency legislation.

Analysis of Impact on Revenue

This amendment will not impact revenue.

¹ <http://www.swwhs.org/admissions/admissions-timeline/>




OFFICE OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL

Council of the District of Columbia
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Washington, DC 20004
(202) 724-8026

MEMORANDUM

TO: Councilmember Charles Allen

FROM: Nicole L. Streeter, General Counsel 

DATE: February 19, 2019

RE: Legal sufficiency determination for Bill 23-XXX, the Fair Access to Selective High Schools Emergency Act of 2019

The measure is legally and technically sufficient for Council consideration.

This bill would, on an emergency basis, require the Chancellor of the District of Columbia Schools ("Chancellor") to direct the School Without Walls High School ("SWW") to allow eligible students¹ who have not already taken the SWW admissions test to complete the SWW admissions test and to complete an interview process, if SWW staff determine that the eligible student's score on the SWW admissions test is sufficient. In addition, the bill would require the Chancellor to provide notice to eligible students of the date and time of any additional SWW admissions tests scheduled and that all eligible students who have not already taken the SWW admissions test may take the SWW admissions test.

I am available if you have any questions.

¹ The term "eligible student" means a student who:

- (1) During the 2018-2019 school year, is in the 8th grade at a public school or a public charter school;
- (2) Before February 2, 2019, submitted a complete application on the My School DC website for admission to a selective high school;
- (3) Had a 3.0 or higher grade point average on their final school year 2017-2018 report card; and
- (4) Met the listed requirements for each selective high school they applied to through the My School DC website, or were among the top 15 students in their school's 8th grade class.