



MURIEL BOWSER
MAYOR

October 7, 2021

The Honorable Phil Mendelson, Chairman
Council of the District of Columbia
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue N.W. Suite 504
Washington, D.C. 20004

Dear Chairman Mendelson:

I am pleased to submit to the Council of the District of Columbia the “School Financial Transparency Act of 2021.” This legislation amends the “School Financial Transparency Act of 2020” and makes technical corrections to: 1) align the local education agency (LEA) timelines of audited expenditure data, for the Common Financial Reporting Standards (CFRS), with existing LEA auditing processes and timelines and 2) streamline LEAs’ submission of audited expenditure data to the Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE) with the existing process in place to collect financial data required by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). These technical adjustments do not impact the public-facing May 2024 date by which OSSE is scheduled to begin publishing expenditure data from LEAs that comply with the Common Financial Reporting Standards.

My administration is committed to the values guiding the Common Financial Reporting Standards: making resource allocation more readily accessible, empowering stakeholders to assess and improve equity, building a better understanding of the link between student outcomes and financial decisions, and enabling innovation across the District. To uphold these values, it’s critical that we are publishing meaningful and accurate budget and expenditure comparisons between public schools. The “School Financial Transparency Act of 2020” currently requires LEAs to submit expenditure data before their auditing processes are complete and earlier than needed for OSSE to begin annual electronic publication starting May 2024.

The Office of the Deputy Mayor for Education, the Office of the State Superintendent of Education, DC Public Schools, and the DC Public Charter School Board collaborated in coordination with DC Council staff to make technical adjustments to the “School Financial Transparency Act of 2021” that ensure the public receives accurate school financial data by the May 2024 publication date set forth in the “School Financial Transparency Act of 2020.”

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Muriel Bowser".

Muriel Bowser

Enclosure

Chairman Phil Mendelson
at the request of the Mayor

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Sec. 4. Section 2204(c)(23) of the District of Columbia School Reform Act of 1995, approved April 26, 1996 (110 Stat. 1321; D.C. Official Code § 38-1802.01 et seq.), is amended to read as follows:

3 “(23) *School expenditures and budgets.* –

4 “(A) By March 31, 2024, and annually thereafter, the Board of Trustees of each
5 public charter school shall prepare and submit to OSSE, for each campus under its control, actual expenditure
6 data for the prior school year.

7 “(B) Beginning July 29, 2022, and annually thereafter, the Board of Trustees of
8 each public charter school shall prepare and submit to the Public Charter School Board, for each campus
9 under its control, the current school year’s budget and a draft budget for the following school year.

0 “(C) The data submitted pursuant to subparagraphs (A) and (B) of this
1 paragraph shall conform to the common financial reporting standards established by the Department of
2 Education, pursuant to section 202(b)(10) of the Department of Education Establishment Act of 2007,
3 effective June 12, 2007 (D.C. Law 17-9; D.C. Official Code § 38-191(b)(10)).

4 “(D) The Public Charter School Board shall electronically publish the data it
5 receives pursuant to subparagraphs (B) of this paragraph in a uniform matter for each school by
6 November 1 each year.”.

7 Sec. 5. Fiscal impact statement.

8 The Council adopts the fiscal impact statement in the committee report as the fiscal impact statement
9 required by section 4a of the General Legislative Procedures Act of 1975, approved October 16, 2006 (120 Stat.
0 2038; D.C. Official Code § 1-301.47a).

1 Sec. 4. Effective date.

2 This act shall take effect following approval by the Mayor (or in the event of veto by the Mayor, action
3 by the Council to override the veto), a 30-day period of congressional review as provided in section 602(c)(1) of

4 the District of Columbia Home Rule Act, approved December 24, 1973 ([87 Stat. 813](#); D.C Official Code § 1-
5 206.02(c)(1)), and publication in the District of Columbia Register.

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