



COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
THE JOHN A. WILSON BUILDING
1350 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, NW
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20004

CHRISTINA HENDERSON
Councilmember, At-Large
Chairperson, Committee on Health

Committee Member
Facilities
Human Services
Transportation and the Environment

Statement of Introduction
Board of Trustees Training Amendment Act of 2025
January 17, 2025

I am proud to introduce the Board of Trustees Training Amendment Act of 2025 along with Councilmembers Janeese Lewis George, Anita Bonds, Brianne K. Nadeau, and Matthew Frumin. This measure was initially introduced in Council Period 25.

This legislation would require the Public Charter School Board, in coordination with the Office of the State Superintendent of Education, to offer a no-cost training program for newly elected or appointed members of a public charter school's Board of Trustees. This training must be completed within 90 days of a member's election or appointment, repeated annually, and include critical topics such as instruction and academic programs, personnel management, fiscal management, operations, governance, and any relevant changes to federal and District laws and regulations.

Effective governance is essential to the success and sustainability of charter schools. In the District, governance lapses—particularly in financial management—have jeopardized the stability of schools, leading to closures and causing significant disruptions in students' education. These disruptions not only displace students from their school communities but also negatively impact their academic progress and well-being. Such failures undermine public trust in schools and in government, and lead to uncertainty about schools' ability to provide consistent, high-quality learning environments. This legislation offers a solution to these challenges by requiring comprehensive training for all new and returning board members, equipping them with the tools and knowledge necessary to uphold their fiduciary responsibilities and promote effective governance and school budgeting practices.

Several jurisdictions have acted to improve charter school governance by codifying board member training requirements. Florida mandates training within 90 days of charter approval that covers best practices, compliance with public records laws, and state regulations on finance, facilities, and operations. Nevada requires board members to sign affidavits affirming their understanding of roles and responsibilities, and New Jersey mandates legal training for new board members and annual governance training for all members. These examples underscore the importance of equipping charter boards with the tools needed for effective oversight—a step the District would take with this legislation. I look forward to working with my Council colleagues to ensure charter school boards in the District are equipped with the training and resources needed to govern effectively, maintain financial accountability, and deliver quality education.

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2 Councilmember Janeese Lewis George

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6 Councilmember Anita Bonds

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10 Councilmember Matthew Frumin



Councilmember Christina Henderson



Councilmember Brianne K. Nadeau

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16 A BILL

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21 IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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25 To amend the District of Columbia School Reform Act of 1995 to require members of a Board of
26 Trustees of a public charter school to complete training programs on best practices for
27 school board governance.

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29 BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this
30 act may be cited as the “Board of Trustees Training Amendment Act of 2025”.

31 Sec. 2. Section 2214 of the District of Columbia School Reform Act of 1995, approved
32 April 26, 1996 (110 Stat. 1321-107; D.C. Official Code § 38-1802.14.), is amended by adding a
33 new subsection (k) to read as follows:

34 “(k) **School governance mandatory training.** – Beginning in School Year 2026-2027,
35 the Public Charter School Board shall, in coordination with the Office of the State
36 Superintendent, offer a no-cost training program for newly elected or appointed members of a
37 Board of Trustees of a public charter school. This training shall be completed within 90 days of a

38 member's election or appointment and repeated annually. The training shall include, at a
39 minimum, the following;

40 “(1) Instruction and academic programs;

41 “(2) Personnel;

42 “(3) Fiscal Management;

43 “(4) Operations;

44 “(5) Governance;

45 “(6) Responsibilities under Federal and District law and regulation; and

46 “(7) Any relevant changes to Federal and District law and regulation.”.

47 Sec. 3. Fiscal impact statement.

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

51 Sec. 4. Effective date.

52 This act shall take effect following approval by the Mayor (or in the event of veto by the
53 Mayor, action by the Council to override the veto), and a 30-day period of congressional review
54 as provided in section 602(c)(1) of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act, approved December
55 24, 1973 (87 Stat. 813; D.C. Official Code § 1-206.02(c)(1)).