



Councilmember David Grosso


Chairman Phil Mendelson

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A PROPOSED RESOLUTION

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

To declare the existence of an emergency with respect to the need to amend the District of Columbia School Reform Act of 1995 to add an admissions preference for the child of a student already attending or selected for admission to a public charter school in which the child is seeking enrollment.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this act may be cited as the “Child Enrollment Preference Emergency Declaration Resolution of 2020”.

Sec. 2. (a) There exists an immediate need to amend the District of Columbia School Reform Act of 1995 to add an admissions preference for the child of a student already attending or selected for admission to a public charter school in which the child is seeking enrollment, as the admissions lottery for School Year 2021-2022 will open in the next couple of months.

(b) Currently only one public charter school, Briya Public Charter School, in the District would use this preference. Briya employs a two-generation model of education where at least one parent must enroll in the public charter school along with his or her child. Parents who enroll participate in parenting and digital literacy classes. If a parent is an English language learner, he or she may enroll in English classes, and for a select group of parents, Briya offers a high school diploma, as well as training to be a medical assistant or to earn a Child Development

35 Associate credential. The children, who are enrolled with their parents, receive a high-quality
36 pre-kindergarten education.

37 (c) Briya’s two-generation model is highly effective and has resulted in Briya receiving a
38 Tier 1 designation from the District’s Public Charter School Board.

39 (d) No admissions preference currently exists in District law that allows for Briya’s two-
40 generation model. If an individual wanted to enroll solely his or her child and did not intend to
41 also enroll, Briya would be faced with a potential challenge to its successful model. To ensure
42 that Briya’s model is not impeded and to allow for other public charter schools also to employ
43 the two-generation model in their schools if desired, the Council approved Bill 23-717,
44 “Expanding Equitable Access to Great Schools Act of 2020,” unanimously on first reading on
45 October 20, 2020. Bill 23-717, among other things, creates a permanent admissions preference
46 for the child of a student already attending or selected for admission to a public charter school in
47 which the child is seeking enrollment.

48 (d) Although Bill 23-717 is expected to be approved on second reading on November 10,
49 2020, it will be months before the bill actually becomes law. Given that Briya is currently
50 employing the two-generation model and plans to also do so for School Year 2021-2022 as well
51 as that its admissions lottery opens in the next couple of months, Briya needs certainty now that
52 the child enrollment preference is District law. Public charter schools have already begun to
53 communicate with and recruit prospective students and families, but Briya cannot inform
54 prospective families about the child enrollment preference until it becomes law.

55 (e) Moreover, because of the economic downturn, Briya has seen a surge in enrollment
56 inquiries and expects far greater demand for seats during School Year 2021-2022, so an
57 immediate need exists to guarantee that Briya has the child enrollment admissions preference in

58 place in time for its admissions lottery, which will open before Bill 23-717 becomes law. Thus,
59 it is vital for this emergency legislation to be approved now.

60 Sec. 3. The Council of the District of Columbia finds that the circumstances enumerated
61 in section 2 constitute emergency circumstances making it necessary that the “Child Enrollment
62 Preference Emergency Amendment Act of 2020” be adopted after a single reading.

63 Sec. 4. This resolution shall take effect immediately.