

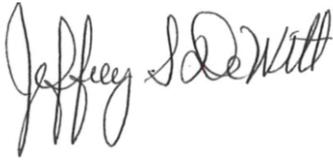
Government of the District of Columbia  
Office of the Chief Financial Officer



Jeffrey S. DeWitt  
Chief Financial Officer

**MEMORANDUM**

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

**FROM:** Jeffrey S. DeWitt  
Chief Financial Officer 

**DATE:** October 15, 2020

**SUBJECT:** Fiscal Impact Statement – Expanding Equitable Access to Schools  
Amendment Act of 2020

**REFERENCE:** Bill 23-717, Draft Committee Print as provided to the Office of Revenue  
Analysis on October 14, 2020

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**Conclusion**

Funds are sufficient in the fiscal year 2021 through fiscal year 2024 budget and financial plan to implement the proposed resolution.

**Background**

The My School DC common lottery is a single, random lottery that determines placement for new students at all participating schools. Public charter schools that participate in the common lottery offer admission preferences to certain students. Students that qualify for a preference at a particular school are offered space at that school before students who do not have a preference.

The bill establishes<sup>1</sup> two additional admission preferences for public charter schools; an admissions preference for the child of a student already attending or selected for admission to a public charter school and an admissions preference for students classified as at-risk.<sup>2</sup>

In order to offer admissions preference to at-risk students, a public charter school must receive approval from the Public Charter School Board (PCSB). Charter schools can implement an at-risk student admissions preference beginning in School Year 2022-2023 and must continue to offer the

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<sup>1</sup> Section 2206 of the District of Columbia School Reform Act of 1995, approved April 26, 1996 (110 Stat. 1321; D.C. Official Code § 38-1802.06).

<sup>2</sup> At-risk students are those who identify as homeless, in foster care, TANF or SNAP eligible, or are a high school student that is one year older, or more, than the expected age for the grade in which the student is enrolled.

The Honorable Phil Mendelson

FIS: Bill 23-717, "Expanding Equitable Access to Schools Amendment Act of 2020," Draft Committee Print as shared with the Office of Revenue Analysis on October 14, 2020

preference for at least five years. A charter school can submit a request to the PCSB to discontinue an at-risk student admissions preference after offering the preference for at least two years.

### **Financial Plan Impact**

Funds are sufficient in the fiscal year 2021 through fiscal year 2024 budget and financial plan to implement the proposed resolution.

The My School DC common lottery can implement both the child of a student and the at-risk student admission preferences without additional resources. The algorithm that is used by the common lottery to place students at their preferred school can be updated to include the new admissions preferences at no cost to the District. Additionally, the PCSB can review charter school at-risk student admission preference requests without additional resources.