


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:** July 8, 2019

**SUBJECT:** Fiscal Impact Statement – Wells School Designation and Master  
Facilities Plan Disapproval Act of 2019

**REFERENCE:** Draft Committee Print provided to the Office of Revenue Analysis on  
July 2, 2019

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**Conclusion**

Funds are sufficient in the fiscal year 2019 and the fiscal year 2020 through fiscal year 2023 budget and financial plan to implement the bill.

**Background**

District law<sup>1</sup> requires the Office of the Deputy Mayor for Education (DME) to prepare a ten-year master facilities plan to anticipate and enable the development of adequate public school facilities. The bill updates the law to remove a requirement that the Council vote on the 10-year Master Facilities Plan concurrently with the Mayor’s capital budget proposal. Additionally, the bill specifies that the DC Schools Master Facilities Plan 2018<sup>2</sup> is disapproved. The 2018 plan includes an overview of public school facilities, enrollment data and projections of enrollment growth, and recommendations for use of space in the future.

The bill also officially designates a new middle school the District is constructing next to Coolidge High School in Ward 4<sup>3</sup> as the “Ida B. Wells Middle School.”

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<sup>1</sup> School Based Budgeting and Accountability Act of 1998, effective March 26, 1999 (D.C. Law 12-175; D.C. Official Code § 38-2803(a)).

<sup>2</sup> As submitted to the Council by the Mayor on January 7, 2019.

<sup>3</sup> The school is located in Square 3269, bounded by Sheridan Street, N.W., 5th Street, N.W., 3rd Street, N.W., and Van Buren Street, N.W.

The Honorable Phil Mendelson

FIS: Bill 23-216, "Wells School Designation and Master Facilities Plan Disapproval Act of 2019," draft Committee Print provided to the Office of Revenue Analysis on July 2, 2019

### **Financial Plan Impact**

Funds are sufficient in the fiscal year 2019 and fiscal year 2020 through fiscal year 2023 budget and financial plan to implement the bill.

Naming the new middle school has no cost. The District is currently constructing the new school within the Coolidge Modernization/Renovation capital project.

Changing the approval process for the Master Facilities Plan and disapproving it may leave the District without a current or updated plan if (DME) does not have the resources to revise the plan and re-submit it to Council. However, the plan is not a spending document and investments in District of Columbia Public School facilities are authorized under the District's capital budget. Additionally, the bill does not require DME to submit a revised plan.