

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



Natwar M. Gandhi
Chief Financial Officer

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Vincent C. Gray
Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia

FROM: Natwar M. Gandhi
Chief Financial Officer 

DATE: April 2, 2009

SUBJECT: Fiscal Impact Statement: "Mandatory Uniform Policies Regulation Approval Resolution of 2009"

REFERENCE: Draft Resolution – no resolution number available

Conclusion

Funds are sufficient in the FY 2009 budget and FY 2010 through FY 2013 proposed budget and financial plan to implement the provisions of the proposed rulemaking.

Background

The proposed resolution would approve the rulemaking adopted by the Chancellor of the District of Columbia Public Schools (DCPS)¹ to revise the dress codes and uniform regulations for the DCPS to permit the implementation and enforcement of mandatory uniform policies and establish the rules governing the implementation and enforcement of such policies.² The proposed resolution would repeal Section 2408 and Section 2401.18(d) of Title 5 (Education) of the District of Columbia Municipal Regulations and add a new chapter, Chapter B24 (Student Rights and Responsibilities) and a new Section B2408 (Dress Codes/Uniforms).

¹ This rulemaking is authorized pursuant to Section 103 of the DC Public Education Reform Amendment Act of 2007, effective June 12, 2007 (D.C. Law 17-9; D.C. Official Code § 38-172) and Mayor's Order 2007-186 (August 10, 2007).

² Exceptions to the mandatory uniform policy are also given.

In addition to the above, the regulations also detail how to establish the dress code or uniform policy, what principles it should contain, and what exceptions would be permitted.

Financial Plan Impact

Funds are sufficient in the FY 2009 budget and the FY 2010 through FY 2013 proposed budget and financial plan to implement the provisions of the proposed resolution. Establishing a mandatory uniform policy and the rules to govern and enforce it would not have a fiscal impact.

It should be noted, though, that the resolution would require each principal to establish a uniform bank that would contain donated and substitute clothing to be loaned on a daily basis to non-compliant students. In addition, each principal would be required to establish mechanisms for accommodating families and students who may need financial assistance in order to obtain a uniform. However, this resolution does not provide any type of entitlement to such a uniform, nor does it obligate the District of Columbia Government to provide any additional resources for this or other purposes.