

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



Glen Lee
Chief Financial Officer

MEMORANDUM

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

FROM: Glen Lee
Chief Financial Officer 

DATE: October 19, 2026

SUBJECT: Fiscal Impact Statement – Alma W. Thomas Middle School Designation Act of 2026

REFERENCE: Bill 26-12, Draft Committee Print as provided to the Office of Revenue Analysis on October 9, 2026

Conclusion

Funds are sufficient in the fiscal year 2027 through fiscal year 2030 budget and financial plan to implement the bill.

Background

Alma W. Thomas dedicated over three decades to teaching art at Shaw Junior High School. After retiring, she fully devoted herself to painting. Thomas became a pivotal figure in the Washington Color School, a group of artists exploring color field painting. In 1972, Thomas also became the first African American woman to hold a solo exhibition at the Whitney Museum of American Art in New York City. She drew inspiration from diverse sources, including music, space exploration, and nature.¹

The bill designates² the Old Benjamin Banneker High School building located at 800 Euclid Street NW, Washington, DC 20001 as the Alma W. Thomas Middle School. The school is operated by the District of Columbia Public Schools (DCPS) and has been most recently used as swing space for

¹ National Gallery of Art. Alma Thomas. <https://www.nga.gov/artists/1926-alma-thomas>

² Pursuant to sections 401 and 422(b) through (e) of the Street and Alley Closing and Acquisition Procedures Act of 1982, effective March 10, 1983 (D.C. Law 4-201; D.C. Official Code §§ 9-204.01 and 9-204.22(b) through (e)), and notwithstanding section 422(a) of the Act (D.C. Official Code § 9-204.22(a)).

The Honorable Phil Mendelson

FIS: "Alma W. Thomas Middle School Designation Act of 2026," Bill 26-12, Draft Committee Print as provided to the Office of Revenue Analysis on October 9, 2026.

schools undergoing modernization. Upon completion, the building is slated to accept middle school students from Cardoza Education Campus.

Financial Plan Impact

Funds are sufficient in the fiscal year 2027 through fiscal year 2030 budget and financial plan to implement the bill. DCPS will incorporate the name into the modernization project currently underway at the site. The budget for the modernization project includes funding for signage and other materials associated with a name change.