



December 19, 2022

The Honorable Mayor Muriel Bowser  
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20004

Deputy Mayor Paul Kihn  
Office of the Deputy Mayor for Education  
1350 Pennsylvania Ave, NW, Suite 307  
Washington, DC 20004

**Dear Mayor Bowser and Deputy Mayor Kihn:**

We understand that the Washington Teachers Union has ratified a new contract that provides a 12% retroactive raise for the past three school years and the current school year. We are seeking assurance from you that charter schools will receive an equivalent per pupil payment for this additional retroactive funding that will be provided to DCPS to implement the new WTU contract that covers SY19-20 through SY22-23. To ask public charter school leaders and teachers to continue serving students well with significantly fewer resources than DCPS exacerbates the inequity between the sectors and our most under-resourced students and their peers.

We are competing in the same heated hiring environment as DCPS and facing the same recruitment and retention challenges. Our teachers and staff have, like those at DCPS, been asked to go above and beyond their typical roles while also risking their own health and that of their families in the middle of a pandemic. They have stepped up repeatedly to answer this call and ensure our students, their families, and our communities receive the care and support they deserve. Our schools must receive equitable funding to ensure that we can continue to compensate our teachers fairly, and ensure students have the resources they need to fully recover from the pandemic and thrive.

We collectively serve nearly half of public school students in the city, and we've all faced enormous challenges as we work to serve them. For many of us, these challenges are exacerbated by chronic underfunding ingrained in our education system, with schools primarily serving communities of color experiencing the brunt of these inequities. We're also concerned about the growing funding inequity between sectors, as the FY2023 budget already included more than \$38.7 million in funding outside of the formula for DCPS that was not made available to public charter schools. In FY2023 alone, this represents nearly \$800 more per student in resources provided to those attending DCPS than those attending a public charter school.

**That's why we urge you to provide equivalent funding for charter schools, both retroactive and future appropriations.** And there is [precedent for providing such funding](#). As you know, in late 2017, as a result of the last tentative WTU contract, your administration provided additional funding for charter schools through a one-time payment to cover the equivalent retroactive raise

and the UPSFF rate was increased to fund the WTU contract for the remainder of SY 2017-18 and beyond. We are grateful you recognized the importance of equitable funding for all schools in 2017 and look forward to confirmation that the same process will be followed again.

We know there are finite resources available, but we know you understand that it shouldn't matter whether a family chooses a charter school or a traditional school to serve their students' needs. Equity must be at the center of everything we do. That's how we will ensure that every student in our city has the opportunity to receive a high-quality education. We look forward to continuing our collaboration to make sure every student has what they need to succeed.

Signed,



Ariel Johnson, Executive Director, DC Charter School Alliance

Achievement Preparatory Academy PCS  
AppleTree Early Learning PCS  
BASIS DC PCS  
Bridges PCS  
Briya PCS  
Capital City PCS  
Capital Village PCS  
Carlos Rosario International PCS  
Cedar Tree Academy PCS  
Center City PCS  
César Chávez PCS for Public Policy  
Community College Preparatory Academy PCS  
Creative Minds International PCS  
DC Bilingual PCS  
DC International School  
DC Prep PCS  
DC Scholars PCS  
DC Wildflower PCS  
Digital Pioneers Academy PCS  
E.L. Haynes PCS  
Eagle Academy PCS  
Early Childhood Academy PCS  
Friendship PCS

Global Citizens PCS  
Harmony DC PCS  
Howard University PCS Middle School of Mathematics and Science  
Ingenuity Prep PCS  
Inspired Teaching Demonstration PCS  
Kingsman Academy PCS  
KIPP DC PCS  
Latin American Montessori Bilingual PCS  
LAYC Career Academy PCS  
LEARN DC PCS  
Lee Montessori PCS  
Mary McLeod Bethune Day Academy PCS  
Maya Angelou PCS  
Meridian PCS  
Monument Academy PCS  
Mundo Verde Bilingual PCS  
Paul PCS  
Perry Street Preparatory PCS  
Rocketship DC PCS  
Roots PCS  
SEED PCS of Washington, DC  
Sela PCS  
Shining Stars Montessori Academy PCS  
Social Justice PCS  
St. Coletta Special Education PCS  
Statesmen College Preparatory Academy for Boys PCS  
The Children's Guild DC PCS  
The Family Place PCS  
The Next Step PCS/El Próximo Paso PCS  
The Sojourner Truth Montessori PCS  
Thurgood Marshall Academy PCS  
Two Rivers PCS  
Washington Global PCS  
Washington Latin PCS  
Washington Leadership Academy PCS  
Washington Yu Ying PCS  
YouthBuild PCS