

S.H.A.P.P.E.
Senior High Alliance of Parents, Principals and Educators
dc.s.h.a.p.p.e@gmail.com

June 16, 2016

Members of the New Columbia Statehood Commission
Members of the DC City Council
John Wilson Building
1350 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, DC, 20004

Dear Commissioners of the New Columbia Statehood Commission and Members of the DC City Council,

We strongly support DC statehood. However, we cannot support Article 2 Sec. 7 (B) 2 as currently written. We recommend that the items that are underlined in italics and in red be removed. Including these phrases will threaten the support for statehood and the constitution in the November referendum.

We trust in our elected House of Delegates to make whatever changes to the authority of the State Board of Education that they deem appropriate without having to amend the state constitution. This power is at the heart of what we are fighting for with local control. We have very few elected officials compared to other states, our aim with this document is to reasonably empower. These phrases imply that a majority of our elected General Assembly officials cannot competently make decisions based on changing conditions in the educational landscape. We totally reject the underlined language noted below.

b. Powers

1. The State Board of Education shall be responsible for advising the Governor on educational matters, including state standards, state policies, including those governing special, academic, vocational, charter and other schools, state objectives and state regulations.
2. By Act, the House of Delegates may establish which educational policies, *if any*, shall be subject to the approval of the State Board of Education; **provided such policies shall not include policies that were not subject to the approval of the State Board of Education for the District of Columbia that existed immediately prior to the effective date of this constitution.**

Signed,

Cathy Reilly
Executive Director of the Senior High Alliance of Parents, Principals and Educators