

BUDGET SUPPORT ACT SUMMARY MEMORANDUM

Education Provisions

Subject: Fiscal Year 2027 Budget Support Act of 2026

Enacted: July 7, 2026

Introduction

This memorandum provides a detailed summary of the education provisions contained within the Act. The primary education provisions are located in Title IV (Public Education System), which encompasses Subtitles A through T. Additional education-related provisions appear in other titles of the Act, including school-based behavioral health programming, truancy reduction initiatives, and revenue allocation mechanisms that direct excess revenues toward education priorities. Each provision is summarized below in the order it appears in the legislation.

Title IV: Public Education System

Subtitle A – Uniform Per Student Funding Formula

Subtitle A amends the Uniform Per Student Funding Formula for Public Schools and Public Charter Schools Act of 1998 to establish the foundation-level per-pupil funding amounts for Fiscal Year 2027 and beyond. The base per-student funding level is set at \$15,648 for FY 2027, representing an increase from the \$15,070 level established for FY 2026. For subsequent fiscal years, the base amount reverts to \$14,632 unless otherwise amended.

The Act updates the weighted per-pupil allocations across grade levels and program types. Pre-Kindergarten 3 students receive \$20,968, while Pre-Kindergarten 4 and Kindergarten students each receive \$20,342. Students in Grades 1 through 5 receive the base amount of \$15,648, Grades 6 through 8 receive \$16,900, and Grades 9 through 12 receive \$19,091. Alternative program students are funded at \$24,724, students in special education schools receive \$18,308, and adult education students receive the base level of \$15,648.

The legislation also establishes a comprehensive system of add-on funding weights for special populations. Special education add-ons are structured across four levels with weightings ranging from 0.97 to 3.49, yielding per-pupil allocations of up to \$54,612 for Level 4 Special Education students. Additional compliance funding of \$1,549 per student and attorneys' fees supplements of \$1,393 per student are also provided.

General education add-ons include Elementary English Language Learner (ELL) funding at \$7,824, Secondary ELL funding at \$11,736, an At-Risk general supplement of \$4,694, and an At-Risk High School Over-age Supplement of \$939. Concentration supplements of \$1,095 each are provided for schools with student populations exceeding 40 percent and 70 percent at-risk enrollment. Residential add-ons range from \$5,790 for Level 1 Special Education Residential to \$45,223 for Levels 3 and 4 Special Education Residential, with Limited English Proficient/Non-English Proficient residential funding set at \$10,453. Extended school year add-ons range from \$986 at Level 1 to \$7,683 at Levels 3 and 4.

Subtitle B – Advanced Technical Centers Fund

Subtitle B establishes the Advanced Technical Centers Fund as a special, non-lapsing fund administered by the Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE). Revenue deposited into the Fund derives from payments made by private entities for the rental, use, or maintenance of space within Advanced Technical Center facilities. These funds are designated for use in covering OSSE's operating and administration costs associated with maintaining the centers. Unlike many other special funds, unspent funds in the Advanced Technical Centers Fund transfer to the General Fund at the end of each fiscal year.

Subtitle C – DCPS Food Services Fund

Subtitle C creates the District of Columbia Public Schools Food Services Fund as a special fund administered by the DCPS Chancellor. All revenue generated from food services operations within DCPS schools is deposited into this Fund and must be used exclusively for operations or improvement of food services programming. Notably, unexpended funds do not revert to the General Fund at the close of the fiscal year and remain continually available without regard to fiscal year limitations. This structure provides DCPS with operational flexibility to manage food services resources across fiscal year boundaries.

Subtitle D – Alternative School Breakfast Serving Model

Subtitle D repeals Section 102(c)(4A) of the Healthy Schools Act of 2010, which had established the alternative school breakfast serving model subsidy. This repeal removes the statutory requirement for the District to provide a specific subsidy mechanism for alternative breakfast service delivery models in public schools. The effect is to consolidate school breakfast funding under the remaining provisions of the Healthy Schools Act.

Subtitle E – Education Through Employment Program

Subtitle E amends the Department of Education Establishment Act to expand the capabilities and scope of the centralized data system managed by the Deputy Mayor for Education (DME). The

amended provisions authorize the system to incorporate both education and workforce data to the maximum extent permitted under federal law, creating a more comprehensive longitudinal data infrastructure.

The subtitle further authorizes District agencies to share health and human services data with DME and permits DME to redisclose confidential data to governmental agencies for several specified purposes: evaluating program effectiveness, performing financial analysis, preparing reports, and establishing collaborative management systems. Additionally, the definition of “education data” is expanded to encompass the tracking of student progress from early learning through postsecondary education and into employment, reflecting a cradle-to-career data approach.

Subtitle F – Universal Paid Leave

Subtitle F addresses the financial sustainability of the Universal Paid Leave Fund. The provision establishes that if payment of benefits is ceased due to insufficient fund balances, benefits shall not resume until the Fund balance equals at least nine months of projected benefit payments. This threshold is intended to ensure adequate reserves before benefit payments recommence following any interruption due to fiscal constraints.

Subtitle G – Certified Nurse Aide Workforce Support

Subtitle G directs OSSE to provide \$150,000 in one-time funding by August 30, 2027, to a local university for the purpose of training and supervising at least 25 additional District high school students during the summer to become certified nurse aides. This provision reflects a targeted workforce development investment designed to expand the pipeline of healthcare workers while providing District youth with valuable career training and credentialing opportunities.

Subtitle H – Early Childhood Educator Pay Equity Fund

Subtitle H extends the salary requirements under the Early Childhood Educator Pay Equity Fund through December 31, 2027. Child development facilities receiving monies from the Fund are required to pay minimum salaries for assistant teachers and lead teachers for the period from January 1, 2026, through December 31, 2027. The Act appropriates \$73,500,000 in local funds for FY 2027 to support this initiative, which is designed to address compensation disparities between early childhood educators and their counterparts in the K–12 system.

Subtitle I – Community Schools Grant Program

Subtitle I provides continued funding for the Community Schools Grant Program, authorizing a sixth year of funding for FY 2022 grant recipients and a fourth year of funding for FY 2024

recipients. Total funding of \$2,400,000 is disbursed equally among 15 participating partnerships, with each receiving \$160,000.

The subtitle also establishes a Community Schools Task Force composed of 15 members, charged with recommending how to design, implement, and scale District-wide community schools programming. The Task Force must submit its report to the Mayor and Council by February 28, 2027. The report must address several specified topics, including a common definition of “community school,” the differences between the DCPS Connected Schools model and the Incentive Initiative, appropriate funding and staffing models, evidence-based research findings, and recommendations for scaling. Pending the Task Force’s report, the Community Schools Advisory Committee is suspended.

Subtitle J – DCPS Educator Evaluation and Performance Working Group

Subtitle J establishes a Working Group to develop recommendations for a new method of evaluating educator performance within DCPS. The Working Group is composed of the Council Chairman or designee, the DCPS Chancellor or designee, and 12 individuals designated by the Council, including educators, union members, school leaders, central office staff, researchers, and a representative of the State Board of Education.

The Working Group must convene by November 2026 and submit its report by November 1, 2027. The report must recommend a comprehensive new evaluation framework addressing evaluation criteria (both objective and subjective measures), logistics of implementation, incentives and consequences tied to performance outcomes, training requirements, processes for future modifications, and resources required for implementation. The term “educator” is defined broadly to encompass teachers, librarians, counselors, social workers, psychologists, service providers, coordinators, coaches, aides, office staff, custodial staff, and administrators.

Subtitle K – Early Childhood Education Microcenters

Subtitle K directs DCPS to conduct a planning and design study by May 31, 2027, assessing the feasibility of establishing early childhood education microcenters within public school buildings. By September 30, 2027, DCPS must identify at least three school buildings suitable for hosting microcenters providing infant and toddler care for educators and staff.

Selection criteria for host sites include demonstrated need, geographic accessibility, availability of underutilized space, retrofit feasibility, and outdoor space availability. DCPS is required to enter into leases of at least five years with microcenter operators. Enrollment is prioritized through a tiered system: first priority goes to children of teachers and staff at the host school who are District residents, followed by non-teaching staff, then employees of nearby schools, with non-residents following in each tier. A “microcenter” is defined as a licensed child development

facility within a DCPS building with a capacity of no more than 12 children. “Nearby” is defined as within a two-mile radius of the host school.

Subtitle L – Public School Experiential Grant

Subtitle L requires OSSE to issue a \$500,000 grant to Live It Learn It to support its microgrant program enhancing experiential learning opportunities at high-need schools. No more than 20 percent of the grant may be used for administrative costs. The grant must be issued by November 2, 2026.

Subtitle M – Healthy Schools

Subtitle M amends the Healthy Schools Act of 2010, changing certain mandatory provisions from “shall” to “may” and updating the implementation timeline to School Year 2026–2027. These changes provide additional flexibility to schools and the District in meeting certain health and nutrition requirements under the Act.

Subtitle N – DC Scores Funding

Subtitle N directs OSSE to issue a grant of \$93,091 to DC Scores for the purpose of increasing enrollment capacity for its combined sports, poetry, and service-learning program. The grant must be issued by November 2, 2026.

Subtitle O – Special Needs Public Charter School Funding

Subtitle O requires the Public Charter School Board (PCSB) to transmit \$2.7 million to St. Coletta Special Education Public Charter School in FY 2027, in addition to the school’s regular formula funding. This payment must be made by November 2, 2026. The school is required to provide quarterly accounting of the use of these funds. Failure to provide adequate accounting may be considered fiscal mismanagement by PCSB.

Subtitle P – Childcare Subsidy Program

Subtitle P establishes a contingency framework for the Childcare Subsidy Program in the event that appropriated funds prove insufficient during FY 2027. If funds are inadequate, the District must first limit new children entering the program through the use of a waitlist. If additional measures are needed, the District may revise the rates paid to childcare providers for the remainder of the fiscal year. This two-step approach prioritizes maintaining services for currently enrolled children before reducing provider compensation.

Subtitle Q – Implementation of Math Task Force Recommendations

Subtitle Q establishes reporting requirements regarding mathematics curricula in District schools. Beginning October 31, 2026, each local education agency (LEA) must report to OSSE the Tier 1 mathematics curricula in use, disaggregated by school and grade level. By December 15, 2026, OSSE must publish this information on its website. The subtitle defines key terms including High-Quality Instructional Materials (HQIM), LEA, and School for purposes of these reporting requirements.

Subtitle R – Adult Literacy Access Grant

Subtitle R directs OSSE to issue a \$1,400,000 grant to Washington Literacy Center to support a range of adult education services. Eligible uses include adult foundational literacy, digital literacy, opportunity youth programming, employment retention, career advancement, workforce training, and other educational services. This represents a significant investment in adult education infrastructure in the District.

Subtitle S – Student Attendance Incentive Pilot

Subtitle S establishes the “Fifty Dollar a Week” Pilot Program designed to incentivize regular school attendance. Under this program, OSSE must contract by May 1, 2027, with an experienced organization to administer the pilot. By July 1, 2027, the contractor must design methodologies, identify an appropriate disbursement method, and select participating schools for School Year 2027–2028. The program provides a \$50 per week cash stipend for 40 weeks to eligible students.

Participating schools are defined as public or charter high schools with greater than 40 percent at-risk enrollment. The contractor must produce a preliminary report by March 31, 2028, and a final report by September 30, 2028, evaluating the program’s effectiveness in improving student attendance.

Subtitle T – Lead Exposure Prevention in Public Charter Schools

Subtitle T addresses lead contamination risks in drinking water at public charter school facilities. By October 1, 2026, the Department of General Services (DGS) must contract with a third-party provider to offer charter schools the following services: an inventory of drinking water sources, purchase and installation of water filters with replacement at least annually, lead testing after filter installation, and comprehensive documentation. Charter schools that fail to comply with lead testing and remediation requirements will be identified on the DGS website and reported to the Public Charter School Board.

Related Education Provisions in Other Titles

Title V, Subtitle D – School-Based Behavioral Health Program Stabilization and Oversight

Title V, Subtitle D establishes a minimum funding level of \$13,200,000 in FY 2027 for the School-Based Behavioral Health program. The provision includes several protections for community-based organization (CBO) providers, stipulating that their funding may not be reduced except in cases of documented performance deficiencies, and only after appropriate notice and opportunity to cure.

The Department of Behavioral Health may deploy prevention specialists in up to 25 schools but may not reduce CBO funding to increase the number of Department-employed clinicians. Up to four charter schools are authorized to directly hire behavioral health clinicians under this subtitle. By March 1, 2027, the Department must develop uniform standards, a standardized evaluation framework, and a methodology for tailoring behavioral health services to individual school needs.

Title V, Subtitle F – Truancy Reduction Pilot Program

Title V, Subtitle F establishes a Truancy Reduction Pilot Program targeting chronic absenteeism. The Mayor must identify at least 10 schools serving grades 6 through 12 with truancy rates exceeding 30 percent for School Year 2026–27. Students aged 14 to 17 are referred to the Department of Human Services (DHS) after accumulating 15 unexcused absences, while younger students aged 10 to 13 are referred after 10 unexcused absences. If a parent or guardian is non-responsive within 10 business days of DHS outreach, the matter is referred to the Child and Family Services Agency (CFSA). A preliminary report is due March 31, 2027, with a final report due September 30, 2027.

Title VII – Excess Revenue Allocation (FY 2028–2030)

Title VII establishes a priority framework for allocating local recurring revenues that exceed budgeted estimates during Fiscal Years 2028 through 2030. Education and childcare priorities feature prominently in this allocation structure. The first \$40 million in excess revenues is directed to OSSE for the Childcare Subsidy program. The next \$62 million is allocated to the Early Childhood Educator Pay Equity Fund. Following allocations of \$25 million to the Access to Justice Initiative and \$15 million to direct medical education, the remainder—up to \$187 million—is directed to the Universal Per Student Funding Formula. This cascading allocation structure ensures that education priorities receive first claim on revenues exceeding projections.