

LOCAL BUDGET ACT SUMMARY MEMORANDUM

Education Provisions

Subject: Fiscal Year 2027 Local Budget Act of 2026

Bill 26-0659 was passed by the Council of the District of Columbia in enrolled form and, pursuant to Section 4 of the Act, remains pending Mayoral approval and the congressional review period applicable to District legislation.

Introduction

This memorandum summarizes the education-related appropriations contained in the Fiscal Year 2027 Local Budget Act of 2026 (Bill 26-0659, enrolled). These appropriations are located primarily under the Act’s “Public Education Systems” appropriation title, which is one of several major budget titles established by the Act. The other budget titles are Governmental Direction and Support; Economic Development and Regulation; Public Safety and Justice; Human Support Services; Operations and Infrastructure; Financing and Other; Enterprise Funds; Reserve Accounts; and Capital Outlay. Each agency and account funded under the Public Education Systems title is summarized below in the order it appears in the legislation.

Public Education Systems Appropriation Title

The Public Education Systems title appropriates a total of \$4,452,917,529 for Fiscal Year 2027, consisting of \$3,862,075,104 in local funds, \$419,832,455 in federal grant funds, \$90,071,434 in other funds, \$5,641,536 in private grant funds, \$297,000 in private donations, \$40,000,000 in federal payment funds for Resident Tuition Support under the District of Columbia College Access Act, and \$35,000,000 in federal payment funds for School Improvement under the Scholarships for Opportunity and Results Act. These amounts are allocated among the following agencies and accounts:

1. Department of Employment Services

The Act appropriates \$183,604,917 to the Department of Employment Services for Fiscal Year 2027 under the Public Education Systems title.

2. Department of Parks and Recreation

The Act appropriates \$77,954,208 to the Department of Parks and Recreation for Fiscal Year 2027.

3. DC Public Charter School Board

The Act appropriates \$16,809,173 to the DC Public Charter School Board for Fiscal Year 2027, supporting its oversight and administrative functions with respect to the District’s public charter schools.

4. DC Public Charter Schools

The Act appropriates \$1,463,680,186 for DC Public Charter Schools for Fiscal Year 2027. Funds must be disbursed to charter schools on a quarterly basis, with the first disbursement required within 15 days of the start of the fiscal year. The Act also provides for an advance payment on July 1, 2027 equal to 30 percent of each charter local education agency’s projected Fiscal Year 2028 local per-pupil funding (45 percent for new charter LEAs first opening after December 31, 2026). Each charter school is responsible for funding its own annual independent financial audit.

5. DC Public Library

The Act appropriates \$86,996,807 to the DC Public Library for Fiscal Year 2027.

6. DC Public Schools

The Act appropriates \$1,508,707,114 to DC Public Schools (DCPS) for Fiscal Year 2027, including an advance payment on July 1, 2027 equal to 10 percent of DCPS’s projected Fiscal Year 2028 local funding. The appropriation includes funding for several non-lapsing special funds, including the At-Risk Supplemental Allocation Preservation Fund and the DCPS Food Services Fund.

7. DC State Athletics Commission

The Act appropriates \$1,797,074 to the DC State Athletics Commission for Fiscal Year 2027.

8. Non-Public Tuition

The Act appropriates \$57,464,309 for Non-Public Tuition for Fiscal Year 2027, covering the cost of placing District students with disabilities in non-public educational settings where required.

9. Office of the Deputy Mayor for Education

The Act appropriates \$34,580,721 to the Office of the Deputy Mayor for Education for Fiscal Year 2027.

10. Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE)

The Act appropriates \$705,695,099 to OSSE for Fiscal Year 2027. This appropriation includes funding for a number of special and non-lapsing funds administered by OSSE, including the Access to Quality Child Care Fund, the Special Education Enhancement Fund, the Advanced

Technical Centers Fund, the Community Schools Fund, and the Early Childhood Educator Pay Equity Fund.

11. Special Education Transportation

The Act appropriates \$133,779,046 for Special Education Transportation for Fiscal Year 2027, including an advance payment on July 1, 2027 equal to 10 percent of the program’s projected Fiscal Year 2028 funding.

12. State Board of Education

The Act appropriates \$3,718,204 to the State Board of Education for Fiscal Year 2027.

13. Teachers’ Retirement System

The Act appropriates \$77,052,000 to the Teachers’ Retirement System for Fiscal Year 2027.

14. Unemployment Compensation Fund

The Act appropriates \$4,980,390 to the Unemployment Compensation Fund for Fiscal Year 2027.

15. University of the District of Columbia Subsidy Account

The Act appropriates \$96,098,280 to the University of the District of Columbia (UDC) Subsidy Account for Fiscal Year 2027, including an advance payment on July 1, 2027 equal to 10 percent of UDC’s projected Fiscal Year 2028 local funding. None of these funds may be used to subsidize nonresident tuition unless UDC’s Board of Trustees sets nonresident tuition at a rate at or above the rates charged by comparable public institutions in the surrounding region.

Nature of the Local Budget Act’s Education Provisions

Unlike the Budget Support Act, which is a substantive policy bill, the Local Budget Act of 2026 is purely an appropriations measure. It sets the funding levels for each education-related agency and account described above without enacting new statutory policy changes, aside from the specific provisos noted in this summary — such as the advance payment mechanisms for DC Public Charter Schools, DC Public Schools, Special Education Transportation, and the University of the District of Columbia; the non-lapsing fund authorizations administered by OSSE and DCPS; and the condition on the use of UDC subsidy funds for nonresident tuition.