



**Testimony for the State Board of Education Public Meeting
Wednesday March 17, 2021**

To: DC State Board of Education Members

From: Kelita Boyd

Date: March 17, 2021

My name is Kelita Boyd and I am a proud mother of three sons residing in Ward 8. I also serve with Parents Amplifying Voices in Education (PAVE) Parent Leaders in Education Board. I am here today, to strongly ask for more per-pupil and at-risk funding to guarantee continued services for students and their families. Many schools in DC were already underfunded, understaffed, and experiencing high teacher turnover before COVID-19 hit our city. Because our schools are funded based on the number of enrolled students, the fact that fewer students are being enrolled this year will lead to a potential loss. We need at least \$106 million to fully fund UPSFF. Funding for students that are at-risk, \$78.5 million to fully fund the at risk weight for the public school system. In order to serve students equitably, DC needs to invest in and strengthen systems that support kids and families, including increasing the per-pupil and at-risk funding formulas, which determine what resources schools are able to provide to their students.

According to the Learning Policy Institute, an increase in per-student funding by 10% in K-12 education improves the probability of high school graduation by roughly 10% for low-income students. As parents who believe that we all need to work together for schools to be equipped and apply best practices with forward thinking to build on truth, transparency, and trust to support the students who need us the most. How can we partner with you to ensure that per-pupil and at-risk funding is fully funded in the upcoming budget?