

Coffee Chat on DC School Budget For FY 2022



PARENTS AMPLIFYING
VOICES in EDUCATION

Key Questions About School Funding

- **Adequacy**: Is the overall budget enough to support an adequate education for all?
- **Equity**: Is the money allocated in a way to address systemic inequities, and to provide each student what they need to succeed?
- **Transparency**: Is the budget information clear and available?
- **Engagement**: How are parents, students, and school staff engaged?

What We Need to Know for FY 2022

- **Overall funding increases:** Are they enough?
- **Allocation to school by DCPS:** Are they fair and adequate?
- **Federal money:** How much is coming and how will it be used?
- **Generally:** what are DCPS and charter schools doing to address impacts of pandemic?

The main funding issue: UPSFF



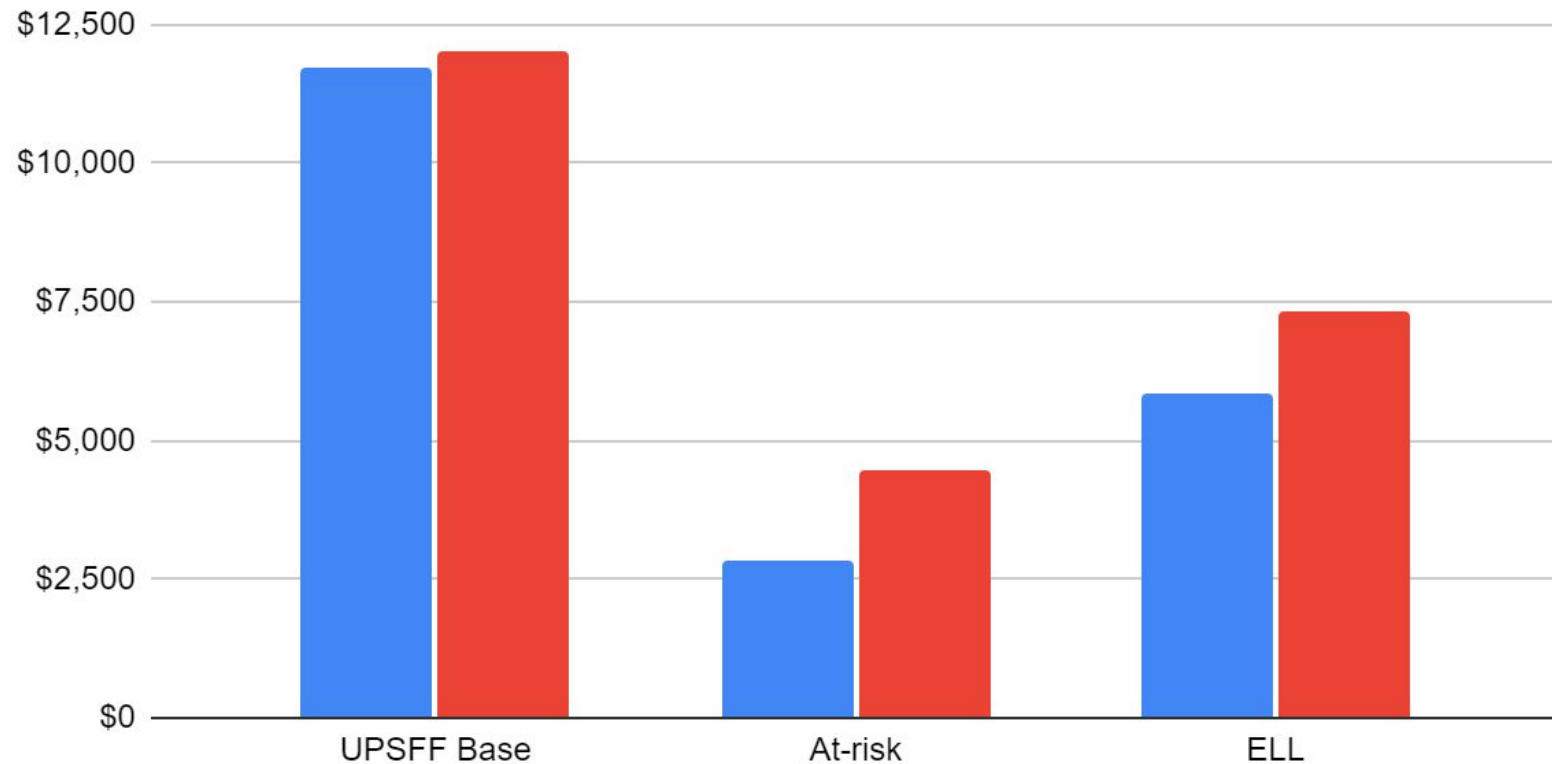
- The big bag of money DCPS and PCS receive is tied to the UPSFF and its components
- **Adequacy** is tied to the UPSFF base per student
- **Equity**: is tied to UPSFF supplements (esp special ed, at-risk, and ELL)
- **Overall budget for DCPS/ Charter School LEA:**
 - # students X base PLUS
 - # students in special categories X supplemental weight for each category

What We Already Know for FY 2022

- **UPSFF Base:** 3.6% Increase
- **At-risk weight:** Increase from .2256 to .24 (goal is .37)
 - Plus added funds for selected at-risk students
- **ELL:** Increase from .49 to .50 (goal is .61)
 - Plus added funded for older ELL students used?

FY 2022 and Adequate

FY 2022 Adequate



How Does DCPS Allocate Money?

- DCPS makes internal (administrative) decisions, mostly not governed by law or influenced by Council.
- **Central Office**
- **School support:** Includes food service, data systems, curriculum development, attendance, and special education services.
- **Direct school operations:** for staff, programs, and resources in schools.

How Does Funding Reach DCPS Schools?



Date	Activity	Decision Maker	Influencer
May	Mayor determines local funding levels for education, approved by City Council	Mayor, City Council	Parents, Community
November-January	DCPS asks for parent and community input on their priorities		Parents, Community
February	Chancellor releases DCPS Budget Development Guide that explains spending priorities and how community feedback was used	Chancellor	
February	Chancellor sends first budget allocations to school principals based on projected enrollment and community feedback	OSSE, Chancellor	
Early March	Principals review Budget Development Guide and get feedback from LSATs and their school community on their priorities		Parents, Teachers, LSAT
Mid-March	Principals create their school budgets based on required positions from the comprehensive staffing model and community input	Principal	
End of March	Principals submit final budgets to Chancellor for approval	Chancellor	
End of March	DCPS submits final school budgets and central office budgets to the Mayor	Mayor	

Factors in DCPS Allocations to Schools

Mostly opaque process affected by:

- Enrollment changes
- Comprehensive Staffing Model
(<https://dcpsbudget.com/budget-model/>)
- Limits to funding drops (stabilization funds)
- We know initial allocations for FY 2022 -- see
 - <https://dcpsbudget.com/budget-data/school-budgets/school-budget-worksheets/>
- Several schools are facing cuts, especially in ELL

At-Risk Funds

- This is the key part of formula to support equity
- It has NEVER been close to being fully funded
- Money is supposed to follow children to their school, but **up to half is diverted every year**
- At-risk # of students and money is not even reflected in school budgets now, so there is a lack of transparency on this important part of school budgets.

Federal Funds

- Each year DCPS and selected charter schools get Title I funding
- This year there is substantial extra money to address pandemic impacts
- Latest round is \$386 million (\$38.6 for OSSE, \$191 to DCPS, and \$156 to various charter schools)
- Money must be spent by FY 2024
- Currently we have NO information on how this will be spent

Charter Schools

- **Much More Flexibility:** Each charter school LEA makes its own spending choices
- **Modest Level of Transparency:** There are reports on spending after the fact but not necessarily on proposed budgets. Only some report on use of at-risk.
- **No Requirement to Engage Parents in Budget Decisions.**

How Does Funding Reach Charter Schools?



Mayor and Council
Determine Education
Budget



**Chancellor or Charter
ED/CEO** Allocate Money
to Their Schools



**School Leaders
(Principals)** Inform School
Budgets

Public Charter Schools: Each **Local Education Agency (LEA)** has broad control over and flexibility in the use of its funds.

- **LEA leaders** can direct funds to the priorities of their school model, with oversight from the DC Public Charter School Board (DCPCSB).
- Individual school leaders input **varies widely across all charters**.
- Those school budgets are posted to PCSB's website, but there is **no uniform budget template or spending categories** for charter schools.




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Where Do We Go From Here for FY2022?

- **Local Funding:** Work with Council for more UPSFF, at-risk, ELL
- **School Allocations:** Work with DCPS or DC Council to fix budget cuts, including using federal funds if needed
- **Federal funds:** Demand a spending plan, transparency, public engagement. Target the Mayor and the DC Council



What does
accountability look
like on a school level?



How can you
encourage
transparency?