Coffee Chat on DC School Budget For FY 2022
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

- UPSFF Base: $12,500
- At-risk: $2,500
- ELL: $7,500
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.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Decision Maker</th>
<th>Influencer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>Mayor <strong>determines local funding levels</strong> for education, approved by City Council</td>
<td>Mayor, City Council</td>
<td>Parents, Community</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November-January</td>
<td>DCPS asks for <strong>parent and community input</strong> on their priorities</td>
<td></td>
<td>Parents, Community</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February</td>
<td>Chancellor releases DCPS Budget Development Guide that <strong>explains spending priorities and how community feedback was used</strong></td>
<td>Chancellor</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February</td>
<td>Chancellor sends first budget allocations to school principals based on <strong>projected enrollment and community feedback</strong></td>
<td>OSSE, Chancellor</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Early March</td>
<td>Principals review Budget Development Guide and <strong>get feedback from LSATs and their school community on their priorities</strong></td>
<td>Parents, Teachers, LSAT</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mid-March</td>
<td>Principals <strong>create their school budgets</strong> based on required positions from the comprehensive staffing model and community input</td>
<td>Principal</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>End of March</td>
<td>Principals <strong>submit final budgets to Chancellor</strong> for approval</td>
<td>Chancellor</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>End of March</td>
<td>DCPS <strong>submits final school budgets and central office budgets</strong> to the Mayor</td>
<td>Mayor</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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
● 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**.
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.
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?