



# Coffee Chat on DC School Budget For FY 2022



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# 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



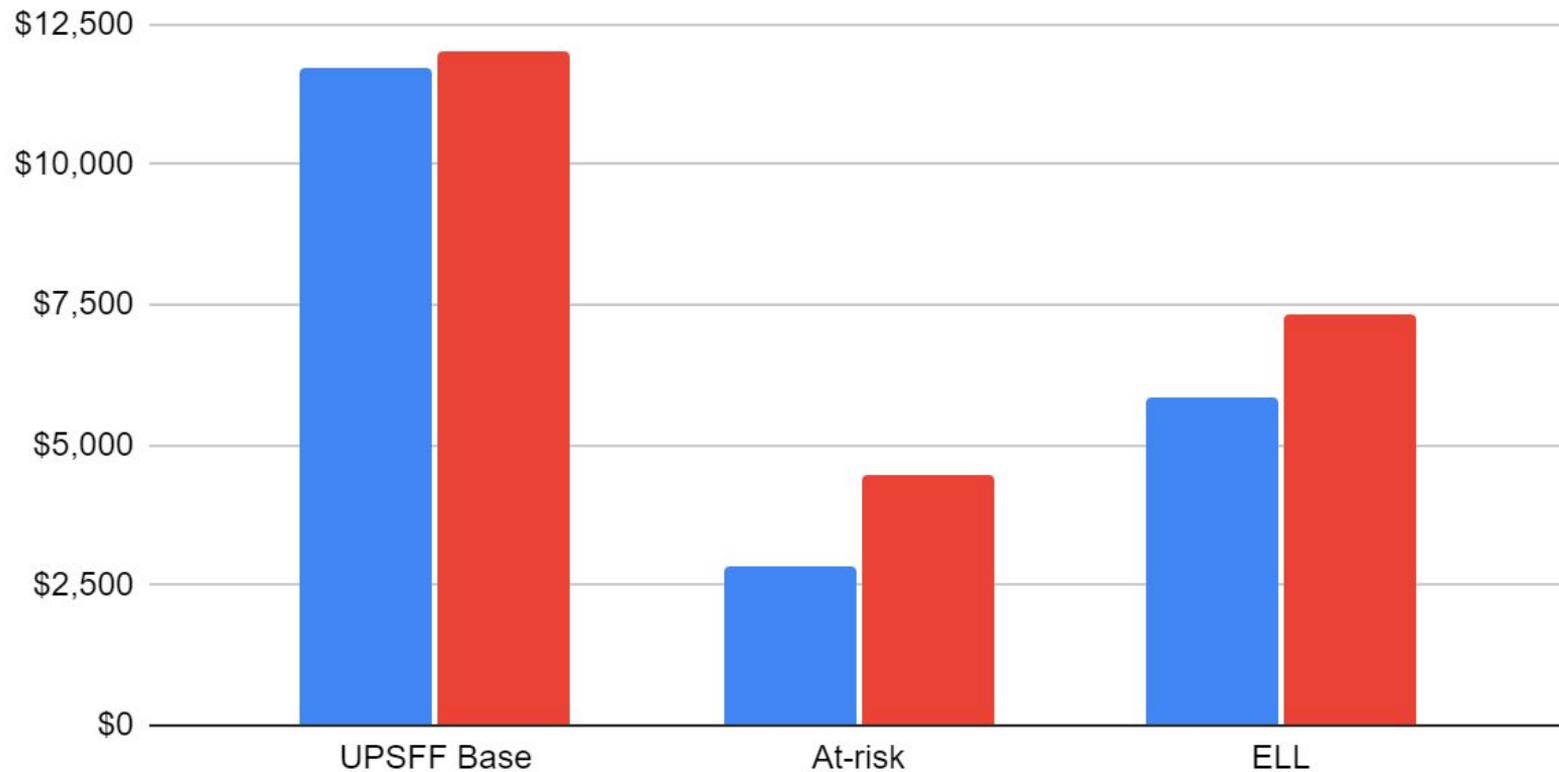
- The big bag of money DCPS and PCS receive is tied to the UPSFF and its components
- **Adequacy** is tied to the UPSFF base per student
- **Equity**: is tied to UPSFF supplements (esp special ed, at-risk, and ELL)
- **Overall budget for DCPS/ Charter School LEA:**
  - # students X base PLUS
  - # students 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 <b>determines local funding levels</b> for education, approved by City Council	Mayor, City Council	Parents, Community
November-January	DCPS asks for <b>parent and community input</b> on their priorities		Parents, Community
February	Chancellor releases DCPS Budget Development Guide that <b>explains spending priorities and how community feedback was used</b>	Chancellor	
February	Chancellor sends first budget allocations to school principals based on <b>projected enrollment and community feedback</b>	OSSE, Chancellor	
Early March	Principals review Budget Development Guide and <b>get feedback from LSATs and their school community on their priorities</b>		Parents, Teachers, LSAT
Mid-March	Principals <b>create their school budgets</b> based on required positions from the comprehensive staffing model and community input	Principal	
End of March	Principals <b>submit final budgets to Chancellor</b> for approval	Chancellor	
End of March	DCPS <b>submits final school budgets and central office budgets</b> 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?