

Cristen Jones
Education Agencies
FY24 Budget Oversight Hearing Testimony
Wednesday, April 5, 2023

My name is Cristen Jones, and I live in Ward 8. My kid attends John Tyler Elementary and I currently serve as a PAVE parent leader on the Ward 8 board. I chose that school because it allows my daughter the option to have a school that has diversity and it has a school playground.

I want to thank you for your partnership and leadership in helping us increase OST by 2 million in 2021 and expand OST seats.

Today, I'm testifying because I believe we need to make sure we continue to allocate more funding for OST programs across DC.

This matters to me because while my daughter is in OST I would like her to be engaged in activities that help enrich her life skills. This will help my daughter, with feeling confident and help her become a well rounded citizen. With the cost of groceries and gas, having a free or reduced OST program is a huge factor for my family and I. Currently, we have been blessed to have my daughter learn how to double dutch in after care. She was even invited to participate in the Cherry Blossom parade coming up on April 15th due to learning how to double dutch. This is building character and confidence in my daughter.

I would like to see more funding for OST to make sure that children in Ward 8 are given the opportunity to learn new skills without having to drive across the city and of course not having to pay lots of money to learn a new skill. The children are our future and the more we can invest in them, the better our future will be. It is up to us to invest and make changes now.

Thank you for your time and partnership.

Best,

Cristen Jones

Citywide/Ward 8 PLE Board Member