

DCPS School Budget Public HearingTuesday, November 27, 2018

On November 27, 2018 Interim Chancellor Amanda Alexander held the District of Columbia Public Schools Fiscal Year 2019 Public Budget Hearing to collect input from community members on the Fiscal Year 2020 budget. Twenty community members including parents, teachers, LSATs members, local representatives, and students testified. Community members provided thoughtful comments on a variety of topics ranging from technology and facility needs to continuing and expanding elementary school enrichment programs.

Below is a list of the most common topics or themes that DCPS administrators heard from residents:

Topics/Themes Captured	Resident Comment (Summarized)
Technology	Ensure there is a long-term plan that provides dedicated funding for technology upgrades, maintenance, and repairs. This includes computers, smartboards, and properly trained IT professionals. It is an equity issue that students have access to quality technology at school to access curriculum, take exams, and compete in the 21 st Century World.
Equity and Adequate Funding	Expensive Special Education Programs send larger amounts of money to schools. However, those populations require more services and supports. When you take out the special education allocations, schools are spending less per student at those schools. Community residents also expressed that schools do not have enough operational money for supplies and not all schools have a PTA who can supplement DCPS funding. Finally, some members expressed support for more flexibility with at-risk dollars.
Modernization	Modernize buildings, especially the older ones that have not received Phase 1 modernization yet. Make schools handicap accessible for students and staff.
Elementary School Programs (Food Prints and STEM)	Parents and students spoke about the importance of the food prints program. It supports students academically, socially, and emotionally as they learn about healthy eating and problem solve together in the garden. Parents and teachers also spoke about the need to expand STEM into elementary schools to build necessary foundational knowledge before high school.