

**GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
District of Columbia Public Schools (DCPS)**



Joint Public Roundtable on PR 25-1095 – Working Conditions and
Compensation Agreement between the District of Columbia Public Schools
and the Washington Teachers’ Union, Local #6 of the American Federation of
Teachers Emergency Approval Resolution of 2024

Testimony of
Lewis D. Ferebee, Ed.D.
Chancellor
District of Columbia Public Schools

Before the Committee of the Whole and the Committee on Executive
Administration and Labor
Chairman Phil Mendelson
Councilmember Anita Bonds

John A. Wilson Building
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue NW

Friday, December 20th, 2024
10:30 AM

Good morning, Chairman Mendelson, Chairwoman Bonds, Councilmembers, staff, and members of the public. I am Dr. Lewis D. Ferebee, Chancellor of the District of Columbia Public Schools. I know this contract is of great interest to the Council and the public and that you have questions so I will keep my statement brief.

Thank you to the more than 5,000 DCPS educators who show up to educate young people in the District of Columbia. We have an amazing educator workforce here at DCPS that works hard to love, challenge, and prepare students for bright futures. The contract before you builds on the recent historic contract between DCPS and the WTU approved last year. Both agreements continue to provide DCPS educators with the best compensation in the country. This contract also provides supports and resources so educators can bring their best to their school communities. As Mayor Bowser, President Pogue-Lyons, and I said, “this agreement shows what can be achieved when we work together with a common goal of putting students first.”

Thank you to everyone from DCPS, the Office of Labor Relations and Collective Bargaining, and the Washington Teacher’s Union who negotiated this contract over the past year. This contract is for five years, the longest contract in recent memory, and provides several benefits to DCPS educators:

1. Additional compensation including a bonus for last year and additional raises for this year and the next three fiscal years.
2. Increasing the number of morning blocks for teacher-initiated planning from two to four each week.
3. Paid wellness days during the school year.
4. Improved leave benefits for new parents.
5. Additional resources and support for athletic trainers.
6. Compensation for providing classroom coverage; and
7. Memorandums of agreement on the climate and diversity.

We look forward to implementing this contract in partnership with the WTU, as we have done with past contracts. Thank you for the opportunity to speak about this agreement and the positive impact it will have on educators and ultimately, students. I look forward to your questions.