

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Good afternoon, Chairman Mendelson, Councilmembers, staff, and members of the public. I am Dr. Lewis D. Ferebee, Chancellor of the District of Columbia Public Schools (DCPS).

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. Let me begin by thanking our educators. Whether it is principals greeting students at the door by name to ensure students feel like they belong, teachers working thoughtfully on engaging lessons, or school social workers supporting mental health, DCPS works relentlessly to ensure our students a

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DCPS and school systems across the country are at an important juncture as we navigate the conclusion of Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Funds. During the pandemic one-

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In this challenging fiscal environment, DCPS will continue to focus on what has made our district great – our people and our values. I’m excited to share that we officially launched our 2023-2028 Capital Commitment earlier this winter.² Reflecting on the past fifteen years, we know that DCPS overcame many challenges to chart a path of progress. For this Strategic Plan, we have identified three Strategic Priorities. We want students to be: Succeeding Academically, Connected to Schools, and Prepared for What’s Next.

Our first Strategic Priority area is Succeeding Academically. DCPS is proud to have experienced gains in both ELA and Math proficiency rates between SY21-22 and SY22-23 in the state-wide assessment.³ DCPS is also heartened by a review of our mid-year SY23-24 data. This data demonstrates that early literacy achievement levels match pre-pandemic levels and exceed national averages.⁴ Data from mid-year math assessments show students in elementary and

² DCPS engaged hundreds of stakeholders in listening sessions and dozens of interviews. I’m proud that our listening sessions specifically targeted getting feedback from our students, our educators, and of course the community and staff. I was so inspired to

student's locker. This year, the school is seeing results – serious infractions are down 47% and Out of School Suspensions