



November 19, 2020

Dear Chancellor Ferebee and Mayor Bowser

COVID-19 is an unprecedented public health and public education challenge for our city, in which we all need to work together to keep our DCPS community and the District safe from the virus. As educators and school-based employees, we know that the best learning environment for our students is in the classroom. We also know the strain that distance learning has put on our families, because many of us are parents in DCPS as well. Along with you, we share an urgency to get back to in-person learning as soon as possible, and we believe that can happen with transparency, staffing and training.

Our members are not only teachers, but nurses, bus drivers, school safety officers, attendance counselors, principals, custodians and other administrative staff. AFSCME Council 20, 1199 SEIU, SEIU 32BJ, Teamsters 639, DCNA, AFSA Local 4 and WTU Local 6 members take pride in educating, nurturing, and transporting our students, and ultimately in ensuring our children have a safe and healthy environment in which to learn. This has been a difficult time for all of us but we know we all have the same priorities of keeping our children healthy, safe and actively learning throughout this pandemic.

DCPS has begun to bring students and personnel back with the CARE classroom model this week, and we want to work with you to safely return our entire DCPS community back to school classrooms and buildings. Transparency is key to building confidence in the safe reopening of our school system and unfortunately our members still have unanswered and inconsistent information. Therefore, we ask that DCPS administration share key information, data, and timelines in the following areas:

- PPE & Safety equipment- description of supplies and which staff will be provided
- Training- to prepare all DC Public School staff for COVID safety and health procedures, including appropriate classroom management training for all staff assigned to CARE classrooms
- A commitment to all workers, including those in contracted positions
- Clear and public metrics on the safety measurements of all DCPS buildings
- Verification of all required facility improvements

In addition, we request that DCPS schedule verification tours of all DCPS facilities with unions representing all school workers and provide a detailed report on training and staffing.

We believe that the dual priorities of getting our kids back to the classroom and keeping our community safe from COVID-19 can happen successfully if we all work together. We are committed to the goal of having schools reopen safely for in-person learning, and when they do open, to prioritize the most vulnerable of students, of every age group and in every neighborhood. We look forward to working with you to ensure that our workforce and our students are safe as we reopen our school buildings.

In Solidarity,

Metropolitan Washington Council, AFL-CIO

AFSCME District Council 20

AFSCME Local 2921

Washington Teachers Union Local 6

D.C. Nurses Association

Council of School Officers Local 4

Teamsters Local 639

1199 SEIU United Healthcare Workers East

SEIU 32BJ