



Government of the District of Columbia
ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 3/4G

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March 5, 2021

Councilmember Elissa Silverman
John A. Wilson Building
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20004

Re: Budget for Lafayette Elementary School Pre-K4

Dear Chairman Silverman,

We ask your help to ensure funding in the District of Columbia Public School (DCPS) budget for four Pre-K4 classes at Lafayette Elementary School for School Year 2021-2022.

The DCPS initial budget, as reported to the LSAT on February 24, 2021, only provides for funding for two Pre-K4 classes, which we understand was requested by Principal Broquard under the assumption that she would not have enough classrooms to accommodate four Pre-K4 classes. Subsequent to the DCPS initial budget announcement, Principal Broquard has indicated that space is available at Lafayette for two additional Pre-K4 classes, accommodating 40 additional students. Principal Broquard contacted DCPS planning staff to request that they reinstate the 40 PreK-4 slots, and provide the necessary budget but her request was denied.

The demand for Pre-K4 within Lafayette’s boundaries remains high. In fact, there is a long waiting list for Pre-K4 slots. Historically, Lafayette has provided four Pre-K4 classes, including this past year. The proposed fifty percent reduction in the number of Pre-K classes offered is unprecedented and negatively impacts families who seek early education opportunities for their children.

DCPS advised Principal Broquard that the initial budget process has been completed and the slots available for Pre-K4 students could not be changed. As you know, the Mayor’s budget — including for DCPS — will not be transmitted to the Council until April 22, 2021, as the District waits for passage of the latest Covid relief bill, which is expected to include financial assistance to states, including the District.

We ask for your assistance in this matter. Please request that the Mayor restore approximately \$440,000 to the DCPS budget and direct DCPS to allocate the full complement of four Pre-K4 classes at Lafayette.

Pre-K education is a crucial component of our public schools and should be offered to as many students as possible. We should use the available classrooms to provide that opportunity for SY 2021-2022.

Thank you. We are available to meet with you to discuss this request further.

Sincerely,

Commissioner Lisa Gore (ANC 3/4G01)
Commissioner Randy Speck (ANC 3/4G03)
Commissioner Michael Zeldin (ANC 3/4G04)
Commissioner Connie K. N. Chang (ANC 3/4G05)