

Government of the District of Columbia
ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 7E
Marshall Heights ▪ Benning Ridge ▪ Capitol View ▪ Fort Davis

7E01 – Veda Rasheed
7E02 – Linda S. Green, Vice-Chair
7E03 – Ebbon Allen
7E04 – Takiyah “TN” Tate
7E05 – Victor Horton
7E06 – Delia Houseal, Chair
7E07 – Yolanda Fields, Treasure, Secretary



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RESOLUTION #7E-20-009
Support for Families and Youth

WHEREAS, Ward 7 is home to 18 DC Public Schools which serve high numbers of at-risk students,

WHEREAS, ANC 7E believes that it is paramount to ensure residents, including our youth, who will be directly and disproportionately affected by the impacts of COVID-19 be given priority in allocating the resources needed to survive and recover,

WHEREAS, As local elected officials, we work closely with our communities and ask that you bring our grassroots considerations into the important decisions you will be making for this year’s FY2021 budget,

BE IT RESOLVED, that Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC) 7E urges the DC Council to:

1. Invest in Mental Health Supports in School

Our schools are more than the buildings they are in or the academics they provide -- they provide a safe space and give many youth and families access to the supports they need and have a built-in trust with the communities they serve. As they remain closed, many students and families are left without important resources. With the magnitude of the crisis increasing, especially for those furthest from opportunity, social isolation and toxic stressors within the home will create even greater need amongst our youth and families.

Consequently, these increased needs require more support for schools to provide virtual access to social emotional learning programs, school staff trained in trauma-informed practices, and high-quality mental health professionals for kids and families.

2. Assure full and continued access to food

If we are going to truly set students up for learning and successful outcomes, we must consider the whole child and their environment. Safe and secure housing, consistent access to food, and economic security is critical for a student’s ability to learn and thrive.

We request that the District continue providing expanded access to free meals for families, even after schools reopen. Families and students who are not able to attend classes after reopening

should still be able to retrieve their meals from designated locations around the District.

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, there were over 7700 students experiencing homelessness during the 2018-2019 School Year¹. Research shows students experiencing homelessness are more likely to be below grade level, held back, and have mental health issues². We have already seen how the effects of the pandemic are further exacerbating this. We need to do all that we can to make sure families have what they need.

To do this, we urge the District to apply some of its federal funding from the CARES Act, to maintain and expand funding for services provided through McKinney-Vento programming, and to ensure that all schools have appropriate access to community services that can support students facing homelessness, especially those who may identify as students of color and LGBTQ+ students.

We also, request that special attention be given to the over 10,000 seniors in Ward 7 who may fall food-insecure during the pandemic.

3. Fully fund the Uniform Per Student Funding Formula and at-risk weight

ANC 7E support increasing both the UPSFF and at-risk weight to the recommended adequacy level based on the 2013 adequacy study (until the forthcoming DME study is available). We request your support for:

- Maintaining the minimum of 4% in FY21
- Increasing the at-risk weight should be 0.37

Further, we believe this begins with ensuring that residents who will be directly and disproportionately affected by the impacts of COVID-19 be given priority in allocating the resources they need to survive and recover. It is essential that the Council prioritize those in our community facing these tremendous obstacles and challenges to success to avoid the longer-term impacts of this crisis.

ADOPTED by _____ vote at a regular public meeting (notice of which was properly given, and at which a quorum of _____ of the six members was present on June 9, 2020 by a vote of ___6___ yes, ___0___ no and ___0___ abstained.

Delia Houseal, ANC 7E06
Chair

Yolanda Fields, ANC 7E07
Secretary

¹ OSSE's District of Columbia [homeless student count](#) by school year.

² *National Center for Homeless Education [Report](#) on DC's Homeless Population*