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CC: Drew Snyder, Irene Holtzman

Subject: School Discipline Bill: October 5 meeting

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ATTACHMENT

#xD;

Dear School Leaders:

Councilmember Grosso is planning to introduce a **discipline bill** before the end of the year. As drafted, this bill would **substantially interfere with your exclusive control** over school operations, and would create **major reporting burdens** for your school.

His office released recently proposed language (attached). The proposed language:

- bans most suspensions through 8th grade, and creates major barriers to any suspension, including in high school
- creates common definitions (in-school, out-of-school suspensions, expulsion, exclusion etc.),
- limits the amount of suspendable days, and
- defines what schools must do when a student is suspended.

Councilmember Grosso delayed introduction until late October or November in order to **hear more feedback**.

He will hold a meeting on October 5 at 2:30 p.m. at the Wilson Building to discuss the latest draft of the proposed language.

His office will also take comments during the entire month of October and at the introduced bill's hearing later this fall.

The councilmember's office **needs to hear from you** regarding the types of challenges you face with student discipline, why this legislation might be a bad idea and what you need in terms of resources if this passes.

We hope you can join the discipline discussion so that we can protect the foundations of the School Reform Act.

Many of you are busy with the day-to-day operations of your school but we need you to share your perspective during any and all meetings or in writing if necessary.

If you would like to contact the Councilmember's office directly to discuss the legislation, please email Darby Hickey dhickey@dccouncil.us or call (202) 724-8061.

If you would like more information, or assistance in preparing testimony, talking points, or written submissions, you may reach out to either Drew Snyder at PCSB, or Irene Holtzman at FOCUS. Both are copied here.

Please let Drew or Irene know if you will be able to attend the October 5 meeting or if you can submit written material.

#xD; Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Scott

Scott Pearson
Executive Director
DC Public Charter School Board
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