



**To:** Charter LEA Leaders

**From:** Paul Kihn, Deputy Mayor for Education  
Antoinette S. Mitchell, Ph.D., State Superintendent of Education

**CC:** Dr. Michelle Walker-Davis, Executive Director of the DC Public Charter School Board

**Date:** September 5, 2025

**Re:** 2025-26 School Year Uniform Per Student Funding Formula (UPSFF) Payments

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We are writing to provide clear communication, increase transparency, and enhance predictability regarding the Uniform Per Student Funding Formula (UPSFF) for the 2025-26 school year as we recognize it is a critical aspect of operating your local education agency (LEA). This memo describes the annual UPSFF payment process and provides policy details for the 2025-26 school year. The figures and changes outlined in this document reflect the fiscal year 2026 (FY26) budget at the time of final approval by DC Council on July 28, 2025.

The Office of the Chief Financial Officer (OCFO) uses student enrollment data provided by the Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE) to disburse uniform per student funding to public charter LEAs. Uniform per student funding for the 2025-26 school year will be disbursed to public charter LEAs in three payment types, which are discussed in detail below and summarized in Appendix A.

- Four regular, quarterly UPSFF payments reconciled to public charter LEAs' October 2025 enrollment audits plus charter facilities financing;
- Three supplemental payments for public charter LEAs that have audited students with new or increased individualized education program (IEP) designations, new English learner (EL) designations, and/or new at-risk designations made after the October 2025 enrollment audit; and
- Two extended school year (ESY) payments for charter LEAs providing ESY services for students with disabilities.

**Please read this memo thoroughly.** The UPSFF foundation level has increased by 2.74 percent from \$14,668 to \$15,070 for the 2025-26 school year, and this change drives increases in all other UPSFF categories. Also notable, the UPSFF Regular Quarter 1 Payment percentage has been adjusted for existing public charter LEAs from 35 percent to 30 percent. While this change is included in the FY26 budget, public charter LEAs will see this adjustment in the first regular quarterly payment for the 2026-27 school year, given it was enacted by DC Council subsequent to the due date of the first regular quarterly payment for the 2025-26 school year (July 15). (See

Appendix A for the full SY 2025-26 UPSFF Payment Schedule and Appendix B for the full list of UPSFF weights and associated dollar amounts).

**1. Quarterly UPSFF Payments, Including Charter Facility Financing**

*a. Quarterly UPSFF payments*

Charter LEAs will receive four quarterly UPSFF payments for the 2025-26 school year. Payments are made no later than July 15, Oct. 25, Jan. 15, and April 15, and typically post to the LEA’s bank account within a few business days.

The first payment (July 15) will fund public charter LEAs based on the LEA’s enrollment projections included in the final approved budget for the upcoming year. To help start the school year successfully, LEAs will continue to receive a larger portion of the total annual funding at the beginning of the school year. For the first quarterly payment, new charter LEAs will receive 45 percent of projected enrollment funding, while existing charter LEAs will receive 30 percent of projected enrollment funding beginning for school year 2026-27.

The second payment (Oct. 25) will fund public charter LEAs based on their certified unaudited October 2025 enrollment figures. Under the second quarterly payment, new charter LEAs will receive 70 percent of the entitlement less the amount paid in the Quarter 1 Payment (July 15). Existing charter LEAs will receive 60 percent of the entitlement less the amount paid in the Quarter 1 Payment (July 15).

The third payment (Jan.15) will fund public charter LEAs based on their unaudited October 2025 enrollment figures. Under the third quarterly payment, new charter LEAs will receive 85 percent of the entitlement less the amounts paid in the Quarter 1 Payment (July 15) and the Quarter 2 Payment (Oct. 25). Existing charter LEAs will receive 80 percent of the entitlement less the amounts paid in the Quarter 1 Payment (July 15) and the Quarter 2 Payment (Oct. 25).

The fourth payment (April 15) will reconcile public charter LEAs’ annual UPSFF funding to their certified audited enrollment figures. Under the fourth quarterly payment, both new and existing charter LEAs will receive reconciliation amounts that make the total amounts paid over the four quarters equivalent to the amounts owed per the District’s annual enrollment audit report for the 2025-26 school year.

Please see the table below for a summary of the 2025-26 school year quarterly UPSFF schedule with payment amounts.

<b>SY 2025-26 Regular Quarterly Payments Schedule and Amounts</b>		
<b>Payment Date</b>	<b>Existing charter LEAs</b>	<b>New charter LEAs</b>
July 15, 2025	30%	45%
Oct. 25, 2025	30%	25%
Jan. 15, 2026	20%	15%
April 15, 2026	Reconciliation payment (approx. 20%)	Reconciliation payment (approx. 15%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>

*b. Facilities financing as part of the quarterly UPSFF payments.*



Under the first quarterly payment, new charter LEAs will receive 45 percent of projected facilities funding (based on projected enrollment), while existing charter LEAs will receive 35 percent of projected facilities funding (based on projected enrollment). Under the second quarterly payment, new charter LEAs will receive 55 percent of remaining facilities funding (based on unaudited October enrollment figures), while existing charter LEAs will receive 65 percent of remaining facilities funding (based on unaudited October enrollment figures). If discrepancies between a charter LEA's unaudited and audited enrollment figures exist, OSSE will adjust the school's fourth quarterly (April 15) reconciliation payment.

## **2. Supplemental UPSFF Payments**

Over the course of a school year, public charter schools in the District receive additional funds for those audited students who receive new or changed designations after the District's annual enrollment audit report. Supplemental UPSFF payments are issued for the following types of new or changed designations:

- New or increased IEP levels;
- New EL designations; and
- New at-risk designations.

For the 2025-26 school year, OSSE will provide data to the OCFO to make supplemental payments in three installments. The OCFO will make the first payment by March 31, the second payment by May 31 and the final payment by July 31 (or the next business day), and payments typically post to the LEA's bank account within a few business days. As each supplemental payment is made, OSSE will provide each public charter LEA with the specific demographic data used to calculate its supplemental payment amount via a statement posted to OSSE's secure upload site. OSSE will notify LEA business managers when payments have been made, and statements are available to download. Supplemental payments for students with new or increased IEP designations will be prorated to align with dates of IEP service, while supplemental payments for students with new EL and at-risk designations will be for the full annual per pupil amounts.

## **3. ESY UPSFF Payments**

For the 2025-26 school year, public charter schools will receive two payments for students receiving ESY services. The first ESY payment to charter schools will be an estimated payment based on the projected ESY enrollment for 2026. The first payment will be made in July 2026. After the ESY period for schools has concluded, OSSE will compare attendance records to projected enrollment figures and count as enrolled for the duration of the time period any student who attended ESY for at least one day and received ESY services. The second ESY payment will reconcile actual attendance in the ESY program against the projected enrollment. The second payment will be made in September 2026.

As a reminder, ESY may be applied as extended learning over the summer or throughout the school year. The ESY payments in the summer will be inclusive of all ESY services provided by the LEA over the school year.

Please do not hesitate to contact Deputy Mayor for Education, Paul Kihn, at [Paul.Kihn@dc.gov](mailto:Paul.Kihn@dc.gov), State Superintendent, Antoinette S. Mitchell, Ph.D., at [Antoinette.Mitchell@dc.gov](mailto:Antoinette.Mitchell@dc.gov), OSSE's Administrative Officer, Gabriel Montague, at [Gabriel.Montague@dc.gov](mailto:Gabriel.Montague@dc.gov), or OSSE's Director of



Budget and Finance, Justin Flemings, at [Justin.Flemings@dc.gov](mailto:Justin.Flemings@dc.gov) with any questions you may have regarding this information.



**Appendix A – Full Schedule of Projected 2025-26 UPSFF Payments**

<b>2025-26 Regular Quarterly Payments Schedule and Amounts</b>		
<b>Payment Date</b>	<b>Existing charter LEAs</b>	<b>New charter LEAs</b>
July 15, 2025	30%	45%
Oct. 25, 2025	30%	25%
Jan. 15, 2026	20%	15%
April 15, 2026	Reconciliation payment (approx. 20%)	Reconciliation payment (approx. 15%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>

<b>2025-26 Facilities Payments Schedule and Amounts</b>		
<b>Payment date</b>	<b>Existing charter LEAs</b>	<b>New charter LEAs</b>
July 15, 2025	35%	45%
Oct. 25, 2025	65%	55%
April 15, 2026	Reconciliation payment as necessary	Reconciliation payment as necessary
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>

<b>2025-26 Supplemental Payment Schedule and Amount</b>	
<b>Payment date</b>	<b>Existing and new charter LEAs</b>
March 31, 2026	As calculated per new student designations
May 31, 2026	As calculated per new student designations
July 31, 2026	As calculated per new student designations

<b>2025-26 ESY Payment Schedule and Amounts</b>	
<b>Payment date</b>	<b>Existing and new charter LEAs</b>
July 31, 2026	Estimated payments (approx. 50%)
Sept. 30, 2026	Reconciliation payment (approx. 50%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>



## **Appendix B – 2025-2026 School Year UPSFF Funding Amounts**

<b>FY26 UPSFF Rates</b>	
Foundation level per pupil	\$15,070
Non-residential facilities allotment	\$3,850
Residential facilities allotment	\$10,396

<b>General Education</b>		
Grade Level	Weighting	Per Pupil Allocation
Pre-Kindergarten 3	1.34	\$20,194
Pre-Kindergarten 4	1.30	\$19,591
Kindergarten	1.30	\$19,591
Grade 1	1.00	\$15,070
Grade 2	1.00	\$15,070
Grade 3	1.00	\$15,070
Grade 4	1.00	\$15,070
Grade 5	1.00	\$15,070
Grade 6	1.08	\$16,276
Grade 7	1.08	\$16,276
Grade 8	1.08	\$16,276
Grade 9	1.22	\$18,385
Grade 10	1.22	\$18,385
Grade 11	1.22	\$18,385
Grade 12	1.22	\$18,385
Alternative	1.58	\$23,811
Special Education Schools	1.17	\$17,632
Adult	1.00	\$15,070

<b>Special Education</b>		
Level/Program	Weighting	Per Pupil Allocation
Level 1	0.97	\$14,618
Level 2	1.20	\$18,084
Level 3	1.97	\$29,688
Level 4	3.49	\$52,594

<b>Special Education Compliance</b>		
Level/Program	Weighting	Per Pupil Allocation
Special Ed Compliance	0.099	\$1,492
Attorney's Fees Supplement	0.089	\$1,341

<b>English Language Learners</b>		
Level/Program	Weighting	Per Pupil Allocation
Elementary EL	0.50	\$7,535
Secondary EL	0.75	\$11,303



<b>Special Education-Residential</b>		
Level/Program	Weighting	Per Pupil Allocation
Level 1 Residential	0.370	\$5,576
Level 2 Residential	1.340	\$20,194
Level 3 Residential	2.890	\$43,552
Level 4 Residential	2.890	\$43,552

<b>English as a Second Language Residential</b>		
Level/Program	Weighting	Per Pupil Allocation
Limited English Proficient (LEP)/Non-English Proficient (NEP)	0.668	\$10,067

<b>Residential</b>		
Level/Program	Weighting	Per Pupil Allocation
Residential	1.67	\$25,167

<b>At-Risk</b>		
Level/Program	Weighting	Per Pupil Allocation
At-Risk Students	0.30	\$4,521
HS Over-Age Supplement	0.06	\$904
At-Risk Concentration > 40%	0.07	\$1,055
At-Risk Concentration > 70%	0.07	\$1,055

<b>Special Education Add-ons &amp; (ESY)</b>		
Level/Program	Weighting	Per Pupil Allocation
Level 1 ESY	0.063	\$949
Level 2 ESY	0.227	\$3,421
Level 3 ESY	0.491	\$7,399
Level 4 ESY	0.491	\$7,399

**Appendix C – At-risk Concentration Supplemental**



The “At-risk Concentration Supplement” includes two supplemental weights that are provided to LEAs based on the number of at-risk students in the LEAs’ final enrollment audit student counts. There are two thresholds for the at-risk concentration supplements: “>40%” and “>70%.” These supplements provide a weighting for each at-risk student in the final enrollment audit student count above the thresholds. The At-risk Concentration weight is 0.07 in FY26. Only schools that have at-risk student populations that are greater than the thresholds will be eligible to receive the at-risk concentration supplemental weights.

When determining an LEA’s eligible at-risk student population,

- Adult students are excluded.
- Alternative students are included.

### **Calculating an LEA’s At-Risk Concentration**

1. To calculate the At-Risk concentration thresholds for each LEA:
  - $40\% \text{ threshold} = \text{eligible population} * 0.4$
  - $70\% \text{ threshold} = \text{eligible population} * 0.7$
2. The at-risk concentration supplements are paid for all students above the threshold calculated above, which we calculate as follows:
  - $40\% \text{ at-risk population supplement} = \text{at-risk population} - 40\% \text{ threshold}$
  - $70\% \text{ at-risk population supplement} = \text{at-risk population} - 70\% \text{ threshold}$

