



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
OFFICE OF THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF
EDUCATION

January 4, 2021

Phil Mendelson
Chairman
Council of the District of Columbia
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Suite 504
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Chairman Mendelson:

I am pleased to inform you that the Review Panel, authorized by D.C. Official Code §38-785.03, selected the Urban Institute as the independent, non-governmental entity for the District of Columbia Education Research Practice Partnership (DC RPP). We look forward to working with the Urban Institute and its partners in establishing the DC RPP consistent with the statute.

Over the past several months, the Review Panel met six (6) times in public meetings conducted virtually to review, discuss, and ultimately select this independent, non-governmental entity. The Review Panel reviewed the proposals submitted in furtherance of the Notice of Invitation, scored them on an agreed-upon rubric, requested supplemental information from the applicants, and allowed the two finalist applications, namely the Urban Institute and The George Washington University, to present their proposals and answer questions from the Review Panel. It is clear that the Review Panel carried out its due diligence and took its responsibilities seriously and thoughtfully in reviewing the submissions and supplemental responses. Ultimately, the Review Panel voted to select the Urban Institute as the independent, non-governmental entity consistent with the procedure outlined in D.C. Official Code §38-785.03.

As far as next steps, we will be making all applications, scoring rubrics, and public meeting recordings of the Review Panel available in the upcoming days to provide the public with full and complete transparency of the process undertaken in making their selection. These will be located on the OSSE website.

Further, D.C. Official Code §38-785.02 states that the independent, non-governmental entity shall enter into a master research services agreement for the purposes of enabling the Partnership to carry out its processes. We look forward to beginning this process, and we will be in contact with the Urban Institute in the upcoming weeks to discuss next steps in discussing, negotiating, and entering into the required agreement.

The District of Columbia is fortunate to have access to high quality and valuable research and analytical partners that were able to engage in this opportunity. We are grateful for each that applied, and we hope that they will continue to constructively work with government entities and the soon to be established DC RPP to improve our educational outcomes. The DC RPP will be integral to our continued efforts to make educational decisions based off the best available research and analysis.

Sincerely,

Shana Young
Interim State Superintendent of Education

Cc: Paul Kihn, Deputy Mayor of Education