



Office of the



State Superintendent of Education

March 14, 2011

The Honorable Vincent C. Gray
Mayor
District of Columbia
1350 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington, DC20001

RE: Final Enrollment Count of Students Attending District of Columbia Local Education Agencies in School Year 2010 – 2011.

Mayor Gray:

I am writing to inform you that my office has completed the enrollment verification process for the 2010-2011 School Year. The final enrollment count reveals that the number of students attending DC Public Schools (DCPS) and public charter schools jumped by 3.5 percent to 74,997 students this school year, marking the first time that both charter schools and DCPS increased their enrollment.

DCPS enrollment increased by 913 students to 45,631 and public charter school enrollment increased by 1,705 to 29,366. The largest growth occurred in early childhood education. This spike is attributable to your legislative leadership in expanding access to pre-kindergarten education for children in the District of Columbia.

A breakdown of the final enrollment by grade band and across both DCPS and public charter schools is enclosed as Attachment A. The final school by school breakdown is enclosed as Attachment B, a final count of English Language Learners (ELL) is enclosed as Attachment C and a final count of students with Individualized Education Programs (IEP) is enclosed as Attachment D.

Overview of School Year 2010-2011 Enrollment Verification Process

On October 5 of each year, an enrollment count is conducted at DCPS and public charter schools, collectively referred to as local education agencies (LEAs). District of Columbia law requires the Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE) to verify these counts through an independent audit, conducted by an outside organization. Once the initial audit is complete, LEAs have an opportunity to appeal based upon proof of residency, ELL status, special education service level, and/or enrollment determinations. Appeals are considered, and a final enrollment count is then produced.

In preparation for the School Year 2010-2011 enrollment verification process, prior OSSE leadership contracted with an independent organization, Thompson, Cobb, Bazilio & Associates, PC (TCBA), to conduct the independent audit. Prior OSSE leadership also modified the long-standing enrollment process by removing the appeals process from the auditor's responsibility and bringing the appeals process in-house to OSSE.

Following the completion of this year's independent audit by TCBA, OSSE presented each LEA with an opportunity to appeal the audited enrollment numbers. OSSE then reviewed these appeals, and made a final determination. A copy of OSSE's 2010 Enrollment Audit Appeals Process is enclosed as Attachment E.

On March 1, 2011, OSSE shared the post-appeal student-level enrollment numbers with each LEA, which provided a final opportunity to review student classifications and/or counts. The final enrollment count was completed on March 11, 2011 and reflects minimal changes made by OSSE. As a result of these changes, the total enrollment count increased by 11 students, from 74,986 to 74,997.

Planning for the School Year 2011-2012 Enrollment Verification Process

In May 2011, OSSE will convene a Student Funding Formula and Enrollment Advisory Group, composed of representatives from LEAs, members of the public and community leaders to review this past year's final enrollment process. The Advisory Group will review the process, and address potential deficiencies cited by the independent auditor, including the way in which LEAs currently maintain residency verification and school attendance records. OSSE will consider recommendations from the Advisory Group, make timely and appropriate modifications, and aim to ensure the process is completed in January rather than March of each year.

I will provide additional information on the Advisory Group and next year's enrollment process as it takes shape.

Thank you,


Hosanna Mahaley
Acting State Superintendent of Education

CC: DeShawn Wright, Deputy Mayor for Education
Kaya Henderson, Chancellor of District of Columbia Public Schools
Ted Trabue, President, District of Columbia State Board of Education
Josephine Baker, Executive Director of the DC Public Charter School Board