



State Board of Education Resolution
On Strengthening Safe Passage for All Students in the District of Columbia
SR21-8

WHEREAS, the DC State Board of Education is committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all students in the District of Columbia;

WHEREAS, the safety of students traveling to and from school must be ensured before we can adequately address the academic achievement of all students;

WHEREAS, the District established the School Safety and Safe Passage Working Group to better understand and enhance safety-related policies that impact District of Columbia Public Schools (DCPS) and public charter schools;

WHEREAS, in 2020, the Office of the Student Advocate (OSA) administered surveys and conducted focus groups with students to better understand their experiences traveling to and from school, and whereas OSA collaborated with the Urban Institute to provide analysis of select data from the survey, and whereas more than one-third of students expressed feeling either uncomfortable, concerned, afraid, or in danger while traveling to and from school;

WHEREAS, the District prioritized seven areas of the city as School Year 2021–22 Safe Passage Priority Areas, including: Anacostia Metro Station, Columbia Heights, Congress Heights, Good Hope Road SE, L’Enfant and Waterfront Metro Stations, Minnesota Avenue Metro Station, and NoMa - Gallaudet U Metro Station¹;

WHEREAS, rates of homicide (+9 percent); sex abuse (+4 percent); robbery (+3 percent); motor vehicle theft (+12 percent)²; and traffic fatalities (+4 percent)³ are higher across the District at this date in 2021 as compared to last year, demonstrating a rise in threats to student safety;

WHEREAS, conversations about safe passage have largely been devoid of solutions for safer transportation infrastructure around the 240 public school campuses in the District of Columbia;

WHEREAS, the overwhelming majority of traffic fatalities have occurred in Ward 7 (10) followed by Wards 4, 5, and 8, respectively⁴; and,

WHEREAS, a 5-year-old student killed by a driver while riding her bike, two young children and their father struck by a driver at a crosswalk on Walk-to-School Day, a 15-year-old student stabbed by a classmate, a 6-year-old shot and killed while riding a scooter, and countless other incidents that have claimed the lives of District students, as well as the numerous accounts of bullying and

¹ https://learn24.dc.gov/sites/default/files/dc/sites/learn24/page_content/attachments/SY%2021.22.OST_Safe_Passage%20RFA_Final.pdf

² <https://mpdc.dc.gov/page/district-crime-data-glance>

³ <https://mpdc.dc.gov/page/traffic-fatalities>

⁴ <https://www.dcvisionzero.com/maps-data>





violence, require the District to act urgently to strengthen the safety and wellbeing of all students during the 2021–22 school year.

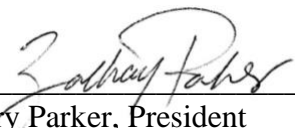
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the DC State Board of Education joins the Office of the Student Advocate in calling on the Deputy Mayor of Education to clearly define what safety means at all traditional public and public charter schools in the District;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the State Board requests the Office of the State Superintendent on Education (OSSE) to provide guidance to LEAs regarding protocols for students entering and exiting school buildings, including but not limited to ample coverage of school-connected adults charged with monitoring student safety;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the State Board advises that all District schools should have crossing guards at all points of student entry and exit to support school arrival and dismissal;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the State Board requests an updated list of all outstanding requests to District Department of Transportation (DDOT) regarding enhanced safety measures around the District’s public schools and address said requests within 90 days; and,

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the State Board requests that DDOT produce a plan within 90 days to establish traffic calming infrastructure (i.e., raised crosswalks) around every DC public school to improve safety.



Zachary Parker, President

10/20/21

Date

