

AN ACT

**D.C. ACT 25-550**

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

**JULY 26, 2024**

To enact and amend provisions of law necessary to support the Fiscal Year 2025 budget.

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BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this act may be cited as the “Fiscal Year 2025 Budget Support Act of 2024”.

**TITLE I. GOVERNMENT DIRECTION AND SUPPORT**  
**SUBTITLE A. OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITY**  
Sec. 1001. Short title.

vocational education programming at high schools such as Armstrong Manual Training School, Bell School, O Street Vocational School, Burdick Career High School, and Chamberlain Career Senior High School;

“(2) Identifies programmatic gaps that may exist between historic programs offered at stand-alone vocational education schools and current CTE and career preparation programs for youth up to the age of 24;

“(3) Examines best practices in jurisdictions that have successfully used CTE and career preparation programs for youth up to the age of 24 to advance greater employment opportunities for those youth; and

“(4) Recommends proposals for improving the District’s existing landscape of CTE and career preparation programs.

“(b) For the purposes of this section the term “CTE” means career and technical education programming funded by a grant received pursuant to the Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act, approved July 31, 2018 (Pub. L. No. 115-224; 132 Stat. 1563), or through OSSE’s Advanced Technical Center.”.

#### **SUBTITLE R. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EARLY LITERACY EDUCATION TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATIONS**

Sec. 4171. Short title.

This subtitle may be cited as the “Implementation of the Early Literacy Education Task Force Recommendations Amendment Act of 2024”.

Sec. 4172. The Structured Literacy Action Plan Act of 2022, effective September 21, 2022 (D.C. Law 24-167; D.C. Official Code § 38-2261 *et seq.*), is amended as follows:

(a) Section 4112 (D.C. Official Code § 38-2261) is amended by adding new paragraphs (3A) and (3B) to read as follows:

“(3A) “Kindergarten teacher” means a general education teacher assigned to teach kindergarten.

“(3B) “LEA” means local education agency, which is the District of Columbia Public School system or any individual or group of public charter schools operating under a single charter in the District.”.

(b) New sections 4115 and 4116 are added as follows:

“Sec. 4115. Achieving competency in structured literacy instruction.

“(a)(1) An LEA shall require each of its kindergarten teachers to successfully complete an OSSE-approved structured literacy training or to demonstrate competency in structured literacy instruction by the start of the 2026-2027 school year or within a year of the teacher’s date of hire, whichever is later.

“(2) Teachers may fulfill the requirement to complete an approved structured literacy training or demonstrate competency in structured literacy instruction by:

“(A) Providing proof of successful completion of an OSSE-approved structured literacy training for the appropriate instructional cohort; or

“(B) Providing proof of receiving a passing score on a structured literacy competency assessment or evaluation that OSSE identified or developed.

“(3) A teacher who is employed by an LEA as of the effective date of the Fiscal Year 2025 Budget Support Act of 2024, passed on 2nd reading on June 25, 2024 (Enrolled version of Bill 25-784), shall be deemed to have successfully completed an OSSE-approved structured literacy training or demonstrated competency in structured literacy instruction by the start of the 2026-2027 school year if the teacher successfully completed an OSSE-approved structured literacy training for the appropriate instructional cohort or received a passing score on a structured literacy competency assessment or evaluation that OSSE identified or developed between January 2019 and August 2026.

“(b)(1) During School Year 2025-26, including summer 2026, LEAs shall dedicate at least 10 hours of professional development time, scheduled during regularly contracted work hours, for kindergarten teachers who intend to complete structured literacy training to participate in such training; provided, that the LEA may designate the time and place for the training.

“(2) LEAs shall compensate kindergarten teachers for time spent outside of regularly contracted work hours to complete an OSSE-approved structured literacy training.

“(c) OSSE may issue rules prescribing additional requirements for educators employed by an LEA to complete approved structured literacy trainings or demonstrate competency in structured literacy instruction.

“(d) By April 1, 2026, OSSE shall establish and administer a grant program to reimburse LEAs for costs, including payments to teachers and assessment fees incurred in meeting the requirements of this section.

“(e)(1) Beginning October 31, 2026, and by October 31 of each year thereafter, DCPS and each public charter LEA shall send a letter to OSSE reporting whether each school under the LEA’s authority has complied with the requirements of subsection (a) of this section by the start of the school year for all kindergarten teachers employed as of October 5 of the reporting year. If a school has failed to comply, the LEA shall state the name of the school, the deficiency, and the timeline for curing the deficiency.

“(2) OSSE shall make the compliance letters received pursuant to paragraph (1) of this subsection publicly available within 15 business days after receiving them.

“Sec. 4116. Supporting competency in structured literacy instruction.

“(a) OSSE shall:

“(1) No later than July 1, 2024:

“(A) Generate a preliminary list of approved structured literacy trainings and distribute the list to LEAs;

“(B) Create and publish an approved list of high-quality instructional materials rooted in the science of reading, which it shall periodically update; and

“(C) Develop and publish a walkthrough observation tool for structured literacy instruction to create consistent expectations about what structured literacy instruction looks like in practice and to support administrators, academic coaches, and teachers in providing effective feedback as part of a cycle of continuous improvement for structured literacy instruction;

“(2) No later than April 1, 2025:

“(A) Develop or identify one or more structured literacy competency assessments or evaluations; and

“(B) Provide related professional development modules on the science of reading on its Learning Management System or a similar online system;

“(3) No later than June 1, 2025, update the list of approved structured literacy trainings to ensure it includes all approved vendors for structured literacy training, consistent with research-based best practices, including best practices for meeting the needs of adolescent, adult, and diverse learners, which it shall endeavor to update by June 1 of each subsequent year; and

“(4) Starting in School Year 2025-26, provide LEAs with a communications toolkit that will support them in communicating with families about students’ early reading skills.

“(b)(1) Beginning in School Year 2024-25, each LEA shall provide OSSE with information it requests related to literacy instruction including:

“(A) The name of the Tier 1 literacy curriculum in use by each school within the LEA serving students in grades kindergarten through 5, disaggregated by school, grade, and teacher;

“(B) Classroom-level student academic performance growth and proficiency in literacy as measured by any uniform assessment for students in grades kindergarten through 3, as available;

“(C) Teacher and administrator feedback on OSSE-approved structured literacy trainings, structured literacy competency assessments or evaluations identified or developed by OSSE, and the coaching pilot administered by OSSE pursuant to subsection (c) of this section;

“(D) Teacher and administrator completion data of OSSE-approved structured literacy training, including the name of the training, completion date of the training, unique teacher identification number, and the teacher grade level and subject area, from the previous 5 years (or since 2019, for educators meeting the 2026-27 deadline); and

“(E) Teacher and administrator results and completion data of an OSSE-approved structured literacy competency assessment or evaluation, including the name of the assessment, completion date of the assessment, passage rate for the assessment, and the results by teacher grade level, and subject area.

“(2) No later than December 15, 2025, OSSE shall publish in a conspicuous location on its website a list of the Tier 1 literacy curriculum in use by each school within the LEA serving students in grades kindergarten through 5, disaggregated by school.

“(c)(1) In School Years 2025-26 and 2026-27, OSSE shall administer a pilot program to support educators’ use of new structured literacy instructional skills. Through the program, literacy coaches shall provide direct, intensive support and individualized instructional feedback to classroom teachers across LEAs, prioritizing schools with the lowest performance on statewide assessments and that demonstrate other factors indicating need.

“(2) Beginning in the first year of the pilot, OSSE shall maintain and support no fewer than 4 literacy coaches to support up to 20 schools.

“(3) OSSE shall collect data to determine the effectiveness of the pilot, which may include data on student growth and proficiency in literacy, pre-and post-tests of educator structured literacy knowledge and skills, classroom observations, and LEA administrator feedback.”.

Sec. 4173. The Addressing Dyslexia and Other Reading Difficulties Amendment Act of 2020, effective March 16, 2021 (D.C. Law 23-191; D.C. Official Code § 38-2581 *et seq.*), is amended as follows:

(a) Section 103 (D.C. Official Code § 38-2581.03) is amended as follows:

(1) The section heading is amended to read as follows:

“Sec. 103. Required awareness training on reading difficulties.”.

(2) Subsection (a) is repealed.

(3) Subsection (b) is amended to read as follows:

“(b) Beginning with School Year 2024-25, and annually thereafter, each educator employed by an LEA by October 5 of a given school year shall complete awareness training on reading difficulties as provided or approved by OSSE.”.

(b) Section 106 (D.C. Official Code § 38-2581.06) is amended as follows:

(1) Subsection (a) is amended to read as follows:

“(a) Beginning October 31, 2024, and by October 31 of each year thereafter, District of Columbia Public Schools (“DCPS”) and each public charter LEA shall send a letter to OSSE reporting whether each school under the LEA’s authority has complied with the requirements set forth in this title. If a school has failed to comply with one or more sections of this title, the LEA shall state the name of the school, the deficiency, and the timeline for curing the deficiency.”.

(2) Subsection (b) is repealed.

(3) Subsection (c) is amended by striking the word “PCSB” and inserting the phrase “public charter LEAs” in its place.

**SUBTITLE S. PR HARRIS BUILDING AND SITE**

Sec. 4181. Short title.

This subtitle may be cited as the “PR Harris Building and Site Amendment Act of 2024”.

Sec. 4182. Section 422(a) of the University of the District of Columbia Expansion Act of 2010, effective April 8, 2011 (D.C. Law 18-370; D.C. Official Code § 10-507.01, note), is amended to read as follows:

“(a)(1)(A) The University of the District of Columbia may maintain a Ward 8 food hub and sufficient office space at the closed Patricia R. Harris Educational Center school building and site.

“(B) The Mayor shall assume any rights and obligations of the University of the District of Columbia as lessor under any existing lease or leases for PR Harris.

“(C) If the Mayor leases or subleases PR Harris, the University of the District of Columbia shall retain the right to maintain a Ward 8 food hub and sufficient space at PR Harris.

“(2) For purpose of this subsection, the term:

“(A) “PR Harris” means the closed Patricia R. Harris Educational Center school building and site, located at 4600 Livingston Road, SE.

“(B) “Sufficient office space” means office space sufficient for the purposes of the University of the District of Columbia, as agreed upon by the Mayor and the University of the District of Columbia.

“(C) “Ward 8 food hub” means food production and distribution operations similar in scope to those engaged in by the University of the District of Columbia as of November 16, 2021.”.

Sec. 4183. Applicability.

This subtitle shall apply as of November 16, 2021.

**SUBTITLE T. PUBLIC SCHOOL EXPERIENTIAL GRANT**

Sec. 4191. Short title.

This subtitle may be cited as the “Experiential Learning Grant Act of 2024”.

Sec. 4192. (a) Notwithstanding the Grant Administration Act of 2013, effective December 24, 2013 (D.C. Law 20-61; D.C. Official Code § 1-328.11 *et seq.*), in Fiscal Year 2025 the Office of the State Superintendent of Education (“OSSE”) shall issue a \$300,000 grant