



88 APPENDIX A – MEMO TO CHAIRMAN MENDELSON AND LEGISLATION

89  
90 INSERT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION LETTERHEAD

91  
92 September X, 2024

93  
94 The Honorable Phil Mendelson  
95 Chairman  
96 Council of the District of Columbia  
97 John A. Wilson Building  
98 1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Suite 504  
99 Washington, DC 20004

100  
101 Dear Chairman Mendelson:

102  
103 Enclosed for consideration and enactment by the Council of the District of Columbia is the  
104 “Universal Public School Nurses for Safer Students Amendment Act of 2024”.

105  
106 This proposed bill was unanimously approved for transmittal to the Council of District of  
107 Columbia by the State Board of Education by a vote of 9-0 on September 18, 2024.

108  
109 The D.C. State Board of Education believes that every DCPS and public charter school should  
110 have a minimum of 40 hours per week of school nurse coverage during each week school is open  
111 to students for instruction, and that the current lack of nurse coverage poses a danger to our DC  
112 students. This legislation amends the D.C. Code to require universal nursing coverage by August  
113 1, 2028. The legislation also establishes a new DC Health program to provide school nurses with  
114 up to \$10,000 per year for use on student loan repayment and other eligible educational  
115 expenses.

116  
117 If you or your staff have any questions regarding this legislation, please contact me at (202) 741-  
118 0888 or [bernice.butler@dc.gov](mailto:bernice.butler@dc.gov).

119  
120 On behalf of the State Board of Education, I respectfully request prompt and favorable Council  
121 action on the enclosed legislation.

122  
123 Sincerely,

124  
125 Insert Signature

126  
127 Bernice D. Butler  
128 Executive Director

129  
130  
131 \_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman Phil Mendelson





at the request of the State Board of Education

A BILL

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

To amend the District of Columbia Public School Nurse Assignment Act of 1987 to require the assignment of nurses to each public and public charter school for a minimum of 40 hours per week during each week school is open to students for instruction and to establish a student loan repayment program for school nurses.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this act may be cited as the “Universal Public School Nurses for Safer Students Amendment Act of 2024”.

TITLE I. UNIVERSAL FULL-TIME PUBLIC SCHOOL NURSE REQUIREMENT.

Sec. 101. Short title.

This title may be cited as the “Universal Full-Time Public School Nurse Requirement Amendment Act of 2024”.

Sec. 102. Section 2 of the District of Columbia Public School Nurse Assignment Act of 1987, effective December 10, 1987 (D.C. Law 7-45; D.C. Official Code § 38-621), is amended as follows:

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

“(a)(1) Beginning August 1, 2028, a registered nurse shall be assigned to each public and public charter school for a minimum of 40 hours per week during each week the school is open to students for instruction.”.

(2) All public and public charter schools shall provide nursing services as





158 required in paragraph (1) of this subsection even if they do not qualify or participate with the  
159 formal Department of Health (“DC Health”) School Health Services Program (“Program”).”.

160 (3) In scheduling the 40 hours per week for each school nurse, the schedule should  
161 endeavor to provide coverage during any before-or-after-school out-of-school-time programs.

162 (b) Subsection (b) is repealed.

163 (c) Subsection (c-1) is repealed.

164 TITLE II. SCHOOL NURSE RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION LOAN  
165 REPAYMENT PROGRAM.

166 Sec. 201. Short title.

167 This title may be cited as the “School Nurse Recruitment and Retention Loan Repayment  
168 Program Establishment Act of 2024”.

169 Sec. 202. Definitions.

170 For the purposes of this chapter, the term:

171 (1) “Commercial loans” means loans made by banks, credit unions, savings and loan  
172 associations, insurance companies, schools, and either financial or credit institutions that are  
173 subject to examination and supervision in their capacity as lenders by an agency of the United  
174 States or of the State or District in which the lender has its principal place of business.

175 (2) “Director” means Director of the Department of Health or his or her designee.

176 (3) “Reasonable educational expenses” means the costs of education, exclusive of tuition,  
177 which is considered to be required by the school’s degree program or an eligible program of  
178 study, such as fees for room, board, transportation and commuting costs, books, supplies,





179 educational equipment and materials, or clinical travel, which were part of the estimated student  
180 budget of the school in which the participant was enrolled.

181 Sec. 203. Establishment of Program.

182 (a) There is hereby established the School Nurse Recruitment and Retention Loan  
183 Repayment Program (“Program”) to serve as a recruitment and retention tool for school nurses  
184 within District of Columbia public and public charter schools.

185 (b) The Program shall pay for the cost of undergraduate and graduate education necessary  
186 to obtain a health professional degree. The Program may pay toward the outstanding principal,  
187 interest, and related expenses of federal, state, or local government loans and commercial loans  
188 obtained by the participant for:

189 (1) School tuition and required fees incurred by the participant; and

190 (2) Reasonable educational expenses.

191 Sec. 204. Eligibility requirements.

192 (a) Individuals eligible for the Program must:

193 (1) Be a registered nurse working at a DC Public School or a public charter  
194 school;

195 (2) Be licensed or eligible to practice in the District of Columbia; and

196 (3) Submit a completed application to participate in the Program;

197 (b) Participants in the Program must submit the following to DC Health by July 31 of  
198 each year:

199 (1) A form approved by DC Health where they confirm their continued eligibility  
200 and intent to remain in the program; and





201 (2) Documentation demonstrating that the individual spent funds on eligible uses  
202 under Section 203(b) between August 1 to July 31. Examples of eligible uses include:

203 (A) Student loan payments the individual had made over the course of the  
204 year;

205 (B) A lump-sum payment to pay down principal owed on student loans  
206 after receiving the funds on June 30.

207 Sec. 205. Administration of the Program.

208 (a) The Department of Health shall administer the Program and shall:

209 (1) Establish an application process;

210 (2) Create a form for individuals enrolled in the program to renew enrollment;

211 (3) Conduct regular surveys to ensure participant compliance with the Program;

212 (4) Disburse all awarded funds by June 30 of each year; and

213 (5) Administer any other functions necessary to the Program.

214 (b) Participants shall not be disenrolled from the Program unless they do not meet the  
215 eligibility requirements of Section 204.

216 (c) By August 15 of each year, DC Health shall notify each approved Program participant  
217 of the amount of funds they will receive on June 30 of the next calendar year.

218 (d) In determining disbursement amounts DC Health shall:

219 (1) Avoid reducing awards paid in the prior year, unless available funds for the  
220 Program have been reduced in the annual appropriations process.

221 (2) Avoid approving new applications for the Program if it would necessitate a  
222 reduction in awards to current Program participants.





223 Sec. 206. Release of information.

224 (a) Any applicant to the Program shall agree to execute a release to allow the Department  
225 access to loan records, credit information, and information from lenders necessary to verify  
226 eligibility and to determine loan repayments. The applicant is required to submit all requested  
227 loan documentation prior to approval by the Program.

228 (b) It is the responsibility of the participant to negotiate with each lending institution for  
229 the terms and conditions of the educational loan repayments. Any penalties associated with early  
230 repayment shall be the responsibility of the participant.

231 Sec. 207. Selection criteria.

232 (a) Applicants shall be reviewed and selected for participation in the Program based on  
233 professional qualifications and relevant experience.

234 (b) Preferential consideration, in order of priority, shall be given to:

235 (1) Residents of the District of Columbia;

236 (2) Applicants' years of service as a school nurse in DC; and

237 (3) Graduates of accredited District of Columbia health profession schools or  
238 programs.

239 Sec. 208. Loan repayment.

240 (a) School nurses who are full-time participants in the Program shall be eligible to have  
241 100% of their total debt, repaid by the Program over 20 years of service, in an amount not to  
242 exceed \$10,000 per year, or \$200,000 in total.

243 (b) The Director is permitted to increase the dollar amount of the total loan repayment  
244 annually to adjust for inflation. All disbursements shall be adjusted accordingly.





245 Sec. 209. Disbursement procedure.

246 The Department of Health shall disburse loan repayment funds, in annual lump sum  
247 payments by June 30 of each year, to Program participants who served the entire year of school.

248 Sec. 210. Tax implications.

249 For purposes of the District of Columbia Office of Tax and Revenue, all loan repayment  
250 awards shall not be considered income and are therefore not taxable, provided that they are used  
251 for eligible expenses.

252 Sec. 211. Annual Reporting.

253 By October 1 of each year, DC Health shall provide the Council of the District of  
254 Columbia and the State Board of Education with a report on the Program that includes the  
255 following information:

256 (a) The number of Program participants who received funds by June 30;

257 (b) The amount of funds paid by the Program;

258 (c) The number of applications received for the Program;

259 (d) The number of applications approved by August 15; and

260 (e) The estimated amount of funds required next fiscal year to award all eligible  
261 applicants the maximum \$10,000 annual amount.

262 Sec. 212. Rulemaking.

263 The Mayor is authorized to promulgate rules necessary to implement this chapter.

264 TITLE III. APPLICABILITY; FISCAL IMPACT; EFFECTIVE DATE

265 Sec. 301. Applicability.





266 (a) Sections 102(a), (b), and (c) of this act shall apply upon the date of inclusion of their  
267 fiscal effect in an approved budget and financial plan.

268 (b) The Chief Financial Officer shall certify the date of the inclusion of the fiscal effect in  
269 an approved budget and financial plan, and provide notice to the Budget Director of the Council  
270 of the certification.

271 (c)(1) The Budget Director shall cause the notice of the certification to be published in  
272 the District of Columbia Register.

273 (2) The date of publication of the notice of the certification shall not affect the  
274 applicability of this act.

275 Sec. 302. Fiscal impact statement.

276 The Council adopts the fiscal impact statement in the committee report as the fiscal  
277 impact statement required by section 4a of the General Legislative Procedures Act of 1975,  
278 approved October 16, 2006 (120 Stat. 2038; D.C. Official Code § 1-301.47a).

279 Sec. 303. Effective date.

280 The act shall take effect following approval by the Mayor (or in the event of veto by the  
281 Mayor, action by the Council to override the veto), a 30-day period of congressional review as  
282 provided in section 602(c)(1) of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act, approved December  
283 24, 1973 (87 Stat. 813; D.C. Official Code § 1-206.02(c)(1)), and publication in the District of  
284 Columbia Register.

285  
286  
287  
288  
289  
290

**APPENDIX B – SBOE LETTER TO DC HEALTH**

