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## Testimony for the Committee of the Whole Performance Oversight Hearing Tuesday March 9, 2021

**To:** DC Council Committee of the Whole, Chairman Phil Mendelson, Committee of the Whole Members, and Committee of the Whole Staff

**From:** Leigh Sims

**Date:** March 9, 2021

Good morning Chairman Mendelson and members of the Committee of the Whole. My name is Leigh Sims and I am a proud parent of one budding preschool student. My family and I live in Ward 6. I also serve with Parents Amplifying Voices in Education (PAVE) on the ward 6 PLE board.

In the Fiscal Year 2021 budget, we saw many important investments in parent priorities, including a 3% increase in the Uniform Per Student Funding Formula (UPSFF) and +300k in funding for at-risk students. Those were important investments! Today, I am testifying before you because we need to see a UPSFF and at-risk weight that is funded to the recommended adequacy levels. This is important for my family because we live within the DC community and it's important to us that everyone has access to a stellar, properly funded public education.

DC should invest in equitable school funding and funding for students who are most vulnerable, including **\$106 million** to fully fund the UPSFF (per pupil funding) and **\$78.5 million** to fully fund the at-risk weight.

Thank you for allowing me to testify and share what I want to see for our kids and our city. I hope you will consider fully funding the UPSFF and at-risk weight for the betterment of our community and the benefit it will provide to our kids.