



**COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**  
**THE JOHN A. WILSON BUILDING**  
**1350 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, NW**  
**WASHINGTON, D.C. 20004**

**David Grosso**  
Councilmember At-Large  
Chairperson, Committee on Education

**Committee Member**  
Government Operations  
Health  
Human Services  
Labor and Workforce Development

February 5, 2019

Acting Chancellor Dr. Lewis D. Ferebee  
District of Columbia Public Schools  
1200 First St NE, 12<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Washington, DC 20002

Acting Chancellor Dr. Ferebee:

Thank you for sending a representative to testify at the Committee of the Whole and the Committee on Education's joint public oversight roundtable on the following matter: Improving School Attendance: Truancy, Chronic Absenteeism, and the Implementation of Reform Initiatives. Please provide a response to my follow-up questions:

1. Based on testimony from the roundtable, it is my understanding that 31 schools are currently receiving targeted support for attendance in the DCPS Continuous Improvement Framework Overview. Please provide the Committee with a full list of the 31 targeted schools. For each school on the list indicate the following information:
  - a. How the school was identified.
  - b. Name and title of Central Office staff supporting the school.
  - c. The number of attendance support meetings that take place between Central Office staff and school staff. Is it biweekly or weekly? Please also provide agendas for the past three meetings.
  - d. How DCPS is measuring success at the school.
  - e. The number of attendance counselors in the school and whether they work full or part time on attendance.
  
2. DCPS updated its policies and practices relating to student attendance and grading by putting into place a series of required notifications for students and families when a student is nearing a failure due to attendance. Can you describe how this system works?
  - a. Have you seen any change in behavior now that parents have greater information about their child's absences?

3. In light of the problems documented at some DCPS high schools this past year, with suspensions being marked as unexcused absences, what systemic efforts have been undertaken to ensure this is no longer happening?

Please submit your response to me no later than close of business on **February 22, 2019**. If you have questions or concerns, please contact Akeem Anderson, my Committee Director, at [aanderson@dccouncil.us](mailto:aanderson@dccouncil.us).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "D. Grosso".

David Grosso  
Council of the District of Columbia (At-Large)  
Chairperson, Committee on Education

Cc: Chairman Phil Mendelson  
Members of the Committee on Education  
Paul Kihn, Deputy Mayor for Education