

Government of the District of Columbia Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4B



RESOLUTION #4B-25-0601

Opposing Abrupt Changes to Kindergarten Enrollment Policy and Inappropriate Child and Family Services Referrals by District of Columbia Public Schools Adopted June 23, 2025

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4B (Commission) takes note of the following:

- The District of Columbia Public Schools (DCPS) has recently instituted a sudden and significant change to its kindergarten enrollment policy without advance public notice, parental guidance, or alignment with longstanding practices used by schools and families across the city.
- This policy change has resulted in the denial of kindergarten placement for children who have completed Pre-K4, based solely on rigid birthdate cutoffs, and has required them to skip kindergarten and be placed directly into first grade, contrary to developmental and academic readiness.
- DC Municipal Regulations 5-E § 2201.6 allows for principal discretion in grade placement based on a child's academic proficiency and physical, social, or emotional maturity, and this discretion had been regularly used to support sound, individualized educational transitions.
- The actions by DCPS have included voiding previously approved developmental waivers, disenrolling kindergarten students already placed, and refusing placement for families relocating from states with different age eligibility criteria.
- DCPS leadership has further escalated the issue by reporting parents—whose children are attending Pre-K4 full-time and who declined to comply with sudden mid-year enrollment changes—to the DC Child and Family Services Agency (CFSA) for alleged educational neglect.
- Such referrals are harmful, unjustified, and constitute a misuse of child welfare resources, inflicting unnecessary trauma on families acting in the best interests of their children.

- This policy shift undermines trust in the school system and disrupts family planning, particularly in a city where school options are already complex and unevenly distributed.

RESOLVED:

- Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4B strongly opposes DCPS's abrupt kindergarten enrollment policy changes and the referral of families to CFSA for noncompliance with these new policies.
- The Commission urges the DC Council and DC State Board of Education to enact emergency legislation that:
 - Immediately restores principal discretion in kindergarten placement;
 - Affirm the right of Pre-K4 graduates to attend kindergarten in School Year 2025–2026 and 2026–2027;
 - Prohibits DCPS from referring families to CFSA solely for enrollment disputes where children are attending a full-time educational program; and
 - Require DCPS to provide at least one year's public notice prior to implementing any major change in grade-level placement policy.
- ANC 4B calls for a comprehensive and transparent review of kindergarten placement practices to include input from early childhood education experts, school leaders, parents, and mental health professionals.
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FURTHER RESOLVED:

That the Commission designates Commissioner Tiffani Nichole Johnson, ANC 4B06, to represent the Commission in all matters relating to this Resolution.

FURTHER RESOLVED:

That, in the event the designated representative Commissioner cannot carry out their representative duties for any reason, the Commission authorizes the Chair to designate another Commissioner to represent the Commission in all matters relating to this Resolution.

FURTHER RESOLVED:

That, consistent with DC Code § 1-309, only actions of the full Commission voting in a properly noticed public meeting have standing and carry great weight. The actions, positions, and opinions of individual commissioners, insofar as they may be contradictory to or otherwise inconsistent with the expressed position of the full Commission in a properly adopted resolution or letter, have no standing and cannot be considered in any way associated with the Commission.

ADOPTED by voice vote at a regular public meeting, notice of which was provided, June 23, 2025, by a vote of __ yes, __ no, __ abstentions.

DRAFT