



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**Statement by George Parker, President, Washington Teachers' Union
DC City Council's Approval of Contract**

WASHINGTON, DC —The Washington Teachers' Union (WTU) commends Chairman Gray and the DC City Council for voting today to approve the collective bargaining agreement. Today's vote means that we can now move forward with implementation of a new contract that will improve working conditions for our teachers and increase academic achievement for all students.

In addition to boosting teacher pay so that it is highly competitive with surrounding jurisdictions, this contract invests in teachers' professional growth, creates conditions for success for students, provides resources necessary to improve teaching and learning, focuses on student discipline and includes new checks and balances related to excessing and reduction in force.

The WTU and DC Public Schools must now work collaboratively to ensure that this newly approved contract is implemented in a fair and equitable manner and is a living, working document, not just words on paper.

Again, we would like to thank our members for their support throughout this long process. The real work can now begin as we continue our efforts to ensure that teachers are provided with the tools they need, including competitive compensation, to dramatically improve education in the District of Columbia.

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