



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**Statement by George Parker, President, Washington Teachers' Union, and  
Randi Weingarten, President, American Federation of Teachers, on  
DC Public Schools Budget Dispute**

*The Council of the District of Columbia and DC Public Schools Chancellor Michelle Rhee are at odds over a discrepancy in projected enrollment figures provided by DCPS.*

**WASHINGTON, DC** —We commend Chairman Gray and the DC City Council for their close scrutiny of Chancellor Rhee's education budget and its underlying assumptions. Accountability needs to extend in all directions, and the council takes this very seriously. We expect no less from our elected leaders.

We are concerned, however, that the current impasse between the council and Chancellor Rhee will negatively affect teaching and learning in our schools. Without clear, immediate guidance on what resources will be available to them, schools will not be able to make decisions effectively regarding staffing and school-wide programs. Further, DC's public schools need every cent that can be made available for their students.

We know that DCPS and the council, like the Washington Teachers' Union and the American Federation of Teachers, want the very best for DC's public schools. An adequate teaching staff and sufficient student support services are critical components for raising student achievement. We are hopeful that DCPS and the council can work out a way to provide the necessary transparency and fiscal accountability without shortchanging the schoolchildren of DC public schools.

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