

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES
UNIVERSITY OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
UDC RESOLUTION NO. 2025 – 48**

**SUBJECT: APPROVAL OF SCHOOL OF EDUCATION AND LEARNING
SCIENCES AT THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**

WHEREAS, pursuant to D.C. Code §38-1202.06(3), the Board of Trustees is authorized to establish or approve policies and procedures governing admissions, curricula, programs, graduation, the awarding of degrees, and general policy making for the components of the University; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to 8B DCMR §308.1, new associate, baccalaureate, and graduate degree programs may be added to the University of the District of Columbia curricula upon recommendation by the Faculty Senate and the President and after approval by the Board; and

WHEREAS, the attached proposal outlines a vision for a School of Education and Learning Sciences that will provide an autonomous infrastructure for preparing future generations of teachers with the unique skill sets required in P12 urban classrooms, and reviving the legacy of DC Teachers College, a predecessor institution of the University; and

WHEREAS, the University of the District of Columbia has been a longstanding provider of teacher preparation programs in the District and has long partnered with the DC Public Schools and Public Charter Schools to train and place teachers and has previously administered its education offering under a school model; and

WHEREAS, the programs envisioned for the new School of Education and Learning Sciences are established and existing degree offerings within the University's menu of academic programs that are high quality teacher preparation programs; growing in demand and seamlessly aligned with the educator needs of the region; and recipients of funding through the DC Government and DC Public Schools System.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of the University of the District of Columbia hereby approves the establishment of the School of Education and Learning Sciences.

Submitted by the Academic and Student Affairs Committee

November 4, 2025

Approved by the Board of Trustees

November 13, 2025



Warner H. Session
Chairperson of the Board

School of Education and Learning Sciences

New School Proposal

April Massey, Ph.D.
Chief Academic Officer

October 27, 2025

I. Justification for the School of Education and Learning Sciences

It is proposed that a School of Education and Learning Sciences be established at the University to enhance the training of future educators and revive the legacy of DC Teachers College, a predecessor institution of the University with a history of placing high quality educators in the District of Columbia Public Schools and beyond. The proposed new structure for the University's education offerings will afford program experts greater autonomy for branding the programs/unit, strategizing priorities for the programs, and accessing partners for growing and sustaining the value and impacts of the programs.

The School's agenda will align with the comprehensive needs of the region and will embed a training milieu that prioritizes and socializes the skills and dispositions that support excellence in P12+ teaching and learning with particular emphasis on the education needs of urban environments. Leveraging the existing education and human development offerings currently housed under the University's College of Arts and Sciences, Division of Education, Health, and Social Work, the proposed School of Education and Learning Sciences will transition to operating under the proposed new name, organizational structure, and leadership without disruption to student, faculty, and community partner experiences. Existing space, budget, personnel, and partnerships will transition with the newly organized unit. The standup of the new School of Education and Learning Sciences will have no negative financial impact on the institution. Existing resources are sufficient to transition and sustain the School through 2029, the terminal point of the current University Strategic Plan.

An interim Dean of the School of Education and Learning Sciences will be appointed and will shepherd the standup and development of the new academic unit with immediate offerings in Education and Human Development at the bachelor's and master's degree levels. The interim dean will transition existing programs in Adult Education, Early Childhood Education, Elementary Education, Special Education, Teaching, and Human Development from the College of Arts and Sciences to the new School. She/he will guide all administrative changes related to the transition of the academic programs and direct the move of associated faculty, students and staff to the new School without disruption to current programming. The dean will oversee the transition to the new organizational structure while maintaining the curricular integrity of the programs and resource availability and ensuring the timely progression of students to degree completion.

Housed in the Division of Academic Affairs and reporting to the Chief Academic Officer, this new academic unit will be one of seven academic colleges/schools at the University of the District of Columbia. It shares a common scope of responsibility with the other six (6)

colleges/schools — to create and sustain a menu of academic offerings that respond to the needs of the region and that pipeline our graduates to waiting careers. Additionally, leadership and faculty members in the proposed School of Education and Learning Sciences will serve as thought partners with the District's education leaders on P12+ policy and teacher preparation issues. This partnership will drive creation and implementation of best practice scenarios that impact all levels of teacher preparation and student achievement.

The new School of Education and Learning Sciences will lead strategic planning for responding to regional needs for highly skilled educators and education policymakers with particular emphasis on level setting experience-rich classrooms that take requisite learning outcomes to scale. School leadership and faculty members will consult with all District of Columbia education bodies, including the Office of the Deputy Mayor for Education, Office of the State Superintendent of Education, District of Columbia Public Schools, and District of Columbia Public Charter Schools. The new School team will be a lead advocate for and shepherd of cross-District partnerships, collaboratives and think tanks and a principal contributor to the development of conceptual models that reshape thinking and practices driving contemporary excellence in P12 education with particular focus on evolving urban education approaches relevant to the communities of the District of Columbia. The new School team will also shepherd scaling teaching and learning best practices within the University.

The named interim dean and faculty members of the new School of Education and Learning Sciences will lead strategic prioritization of all expansion efforts of the new unit, including the addition of a doctorate in education. The dean and faculty members will identify and cultivate new partnership opportunities that extend program growth, support engaged faculty development and scholarship, facilitate increased student enrollments and enhanced student outcomes.

Memorandum

To: The Board of Trustees

From: Managing Director of Finance *David A. Franklin*

Date: November 4, 2025

Subject: Establishment of a New School of Education and Learning Sciences

Conclusion

It is projected that there are sufficient unrestricted funds in the University of the District of Columbia's FY2026 budget—and beyond—to cover the cost of establishing a new School of Education and Learning Sciences. The unit will report to the Chief Academic Officer.

Background

The proposed resolution is to establish a new School of Education and Learning Sciences that would house all of the University's existing and envisioned education and human development offerings. The establishment of the new School will be effective, November 17, 2025.

Fiscal Impact

All resources currently associated with the education and human development programs will transition under the newly established School. This includes all personnel costs, all non-personnel costs, and all related physical and technological infrastructure. Those resources (budget, personnel, space, etc.) are sufficient to sustain the operations of the unit. No additional resources are required to operate the unit.

Based upon the information provided, there are no anticipated risks at this time.