

**For immediate release**

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## **ODCA Hires Alvarez & Marsal for DCPS Budget Review**

**October 24, 2024 (WASHINGTON)** The Office of the D.C. Auditor has awarded a \$290,000 sole source contract to Alvarez and Marsal (A&M) to conduct a study of the District of Columbia Public Schools personnel and budgeting.

“We are delighted to be working with a team that has a strong background in education and public school finance with very particular experience working with the District of Columbia Public Schools (DCPS),” said D.C. Auditor Kathy Patterson.

According to the contract, A&M will “assess the current efficiency and effectiveness of K-12 education spending” and “will focus on identifying areas of staffing growth, assessing the impact of recent staffing investments, and exploring how limited resources are aligned with the shared objectives” of DCPS, the Office of the State Superintendent of Schools (OSSE), and the Office of the Deputy Mayor for Education. The review is expected to be completed by March 2025.

A&M has more than 25 years of experience in K-12 education and has worked with K-12 districts and charter school organizations such as the Houston Independent School District, Newark Public Schools, and the New York City Department of Education including review of structural financial issues and rising educational costs.

Patterson noted that the consulting firm has produced high-profile, sensitive analyses for the Bowser Administration on two recent occasions. In 2017, A&M conducted a comprehensive audit for OSSE, examining graduation rates and policies in DCPS high schools. A&M also partnered with the Office of the City Administrator in 2019 to conduct an independent review and investigation of code enforcement processes and communication procedures, identifying gaps and areas for improvement.

“A&M clearly meets ODCA’s procurement requirements that consulting firms demonstrate both years of experience and proven expertise, plus organizational capacity to meet deliverables,” Patterson said. ODCA has independent procurement authority which includes discretion to award sole source contracts. Consistent with ODCA procurement policy this press release constitutes public notice of any/all sole source procurements of more than \$100,000.

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