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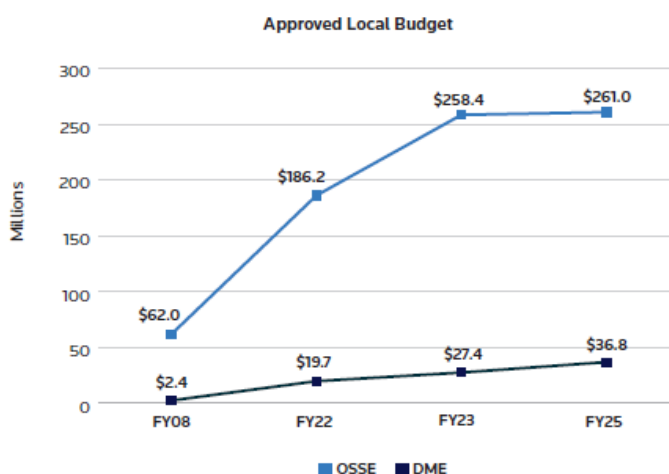
Local Funding & Staff Grows for D.C. Education Oversight Agencies

New report calls for improved transparency in budget and personnel data, and collaboration on efficiencies in administrative costs, staffing, and program delivery

March 17, 2026 (WASHINGTON) Local funding of the two agencies responsible for overseeing the education of the more than 96,500 students attending D.C.’s public schools—the Office of the State Superintendent (OSSE) and the Deputy Mayor of Education (DME)—jumped 40% and 87% respectively in the last four fiscal years, according to a new report by the District of Columbia Auditor (ODCA).

This report is the second in a series on education agencies to help the District’s elected officials understand the drivers of spending growth in the city’s education sector.

In the first analysis, [Study of D.C. Public Schools Staffing and Resource Allocation](#), Alvarez & Marsal, a consulting firm with expertise in D.C. education expenditures, found that the locally-funded DCPS staff grew 19.5% over five years while the number of students grew 2.6%, and that the ratio of students to general education teachers dropped from roughly 19 to 17 students.



In the new report, Alvarez and Marsal chronicled the growth in OSSE and DME local funding and found that OSSE’s grew from \$62 million to \$261 million; DME’s from \$2.4 million to \$36.8 million between FY 2008 and FY 2025.

“The questions for Councilmembers as they consider an ever-more-difficult budget climate is what value we’re getting from all District expenditures—including those for our public schools and education oversight agencies. And whether there are any savings to be found from addressing possible duplication of efforts across the education ecosystem,” D.C. Auditor Kathy Patterson said.

The new report also found:

- OSSE has a much higher proportion of staff to students than comparable state education agencies: one staff member for every 220 students while the Virginia Department of Education has one for every 2,400 students.
- Overlap exists in direct service programs between the two oversight agencies including in attendance and out-of-school time initiatives.

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The new report recommends:

- Both agencies significantly improve the transparency of budget data including working with the Office of the Chief Financial Officer to identify how growing administrative costs can be more consistently tracked in the District financial system.
- Both agencies also improve the transparency and reporting of personnel data.
- DME and OSSE collaborate on an efficiency assessment of all locally funded, direct service programs each agency manages including data on administrative costs, staffing, and program delivery.

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