



Equity Impact Statement
State Board of Education Resolution
Supporting School Access to Funding for Outdoor Learning Options
SR21-1

The State Board resolution SR21-1 calls for system-level support to make outdoor learning options accessible to all District students based on the following factors:

- Outdoor learning has been shown in numerous peer reviewed studies to greatly reduce the spread of Covid-19, while improving student health, engagement, and academic outcomes.
- Since the onset of distance learning due to the Covid-19 Pandemic, families with means have had the opportunity to choose low-risk, outdoor learning options, whether through private school enrollment, arranging outdoor learning pods, or paying for extra-curricular enrichment.
- The widening inequities related to these differences in access to alternative learning options has been well documented.
- Students of color and students living in poverty are disproportionately impacted by the health consequences of Covid-19, as well as by a lack of access to reliable technology needed to fully participate in distance learning and other factors leading to learning loss. Related, a recent DCPS parent survey revealed that families residing in Wards 5, 7, and 8 are less likely to opt to send their children back to in-person learning or CARE classrooms in indoor settings.
- The city has provided funding to restaurants to establish and weatherize outdoor seating as a way to encourage wary diners to eat out again. This resolution calls on the city to provide schools with similar funding so that they may offer our most vulnerable families safer, more engaging in-person options for their children through outdoor learning.

In order to address the need for safe, enriching learning options for students most impacted by Covid-19 and systemic inequity, an outdoor enrichment program has been initiated with Friends of Oxon Run Park in ward 8.

This pilot has held numerous events since November that have been attended to capacity. There are no fewer than five DCPS and DCPCS schools within walking distance of Oxon Run Park that, if properly supported through funding, could partner with Friends of Oxon Run and other school partnering organizations to provide safe, engaging outdoor programming during school time. The SBOE urges the Mayor to make funding available to support the actualization and expansion of this and similar opportunities throughout the city.