



For Immediate Release

June 1, 2021

Contact:

Joe Weedon

Tel: 202-277-9410

jweedon@WTULocal6.net

Media Advisory

Educators and Parents to Rally for School Librarians

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Achievement gaps across the District of Columbia are stark and growing; we can expect gaps to have further increased due to COVID-19. Yet, DCPS school budgets continue to fall short of the need, forcing schools serving high percentages of at-risk students to eliminate instructional positions, including librarians, in their local school budgets.

- WHO:** Jacqueline Pogue Lyons, President, Washington Teachers' Union
Zachery Parker, President, DC State Board of Education
Frazier O'Leary, Ward 4 Representative, DC State Board of Education
Allister Chang, Ward 2 Representative, DC State Board of Education
Jessica Sutter, Ward 6 Representative, DC State Board of Education
Suzanne Wells, President, Ward 6 Public Schools Parent Organization
Julius Jefferson, Jr., President, American Library Association
- WHAT:** Read In to Save School Libraries and increase investment in Literacy programming in the District's FY2022 Budget
- WHEN:** Wednesday, June 2 at 4:00 pm
- WHERE:** John A. Wilson Building (Front Steps)
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20004

As Council of the District of Columbia considers Mayor Bowser's Fiscal Year 2022 budget, the Washington Teachers' Union is calling for increased investments in school communities to reduce the District's achievement gaps by reducing class size, implementing co-teacher and collaborative teaching models, and ensuring there is a librarian in every school. To draw attention to the need to invest in well-rounded literacy programming, school librarians and other educators will be reading to students on the steps of the John A. Wilson Building.

Librarians partner with classroom teachers to provide equitable access to reading materials and co-teach resource-rich literacy. When schools have high-quality library programs and librarians who share their expertise with the entire school community, student achievement gets a boost. Librarians also close the Information Literacy Gap with high school students. The event is supported by District of Columbia Library Association, EveryLibrary, Black Caucus of the American Library Association, and the American Library Association.