

## **DGS Statement on the Office of Inspector General report entitled “Measures to Combat Gun Violence in DC Public Schools”**

On July 17, 2025, the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) for the District of Columbia Government published its report on “Measures to Combat Gun Violence in DC Public Schools.” In this report, OIG made five recommendations to the Department of General Services (DGS) to support the completion of safety and security-related repairs at DC Public Schools (DCPS). DGS has already operationalized efforts to address four of these recommendations, with work underway to address the fifth.

At DGS, we acknowledge the gravity of violence in and around school settings and reaffirm our role in ensuring that the built environment — entry points, door hardware, perimeter barriers, and critical building systems — supports the overall safety posture led by DCPS. Nearly 87% of security emergency work order repairs are completed within 24 hours. DGS details its efforts to prioritize and address safety and security-related work orders in its written response to OIG, which was included as part of the official report.

DGS recognizes the need for all stakeholders to have a shared understanding of the priority hierarchy of safety and security-related repairs. As such, we support OIG’s recommendation for DGS to define categories of safety/security repairs and determine if a consistent level of priority should apply, in consultation with the DCPS Chancellor. Further, DGS seeks to provide additional clarity regarding the types of school safety and security repairs that fall under DGS’s purview versus which is addressed by DCPS directly or through their partners. DGS is actively collaborating with DCPS to establish a Safety & Security Classification Matrix that maps repairs to appropriate and consistent hierarchy levels and notes the safety and security-related repairs that are managed by DCPS directly.

Addressing gun violence is a national challenge requiring a multifaceted response in the District. Under the leadership of Mayor Muriel Bowser, DGS is committed to continuing to work in close partnership with DCPS, led by Chancellor Lewis D. Ferebee, and alongside the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD), Deputy Mayor for Education (DME), and the many District agencies and organizations that play a role in keeping our students safe. We recognize that the safest place for students is in school.

This summer, DGS placed an increased focus on security issues during its annual school readiness efforts. DGS received \$7.9M in FY25 Contingency Cash from Mayor Bowser to support comprehensive summer readiness repairs across all DCPS facilities. This work includes \$516,410.44 dedicated to lock and door issues. This funding supports closing 150 work order tickets at elementary, middle, and high schools across all eight wards. DGS has designated another \$202,515 to address electronic security work orders across DCPS schools, covering over 100 outstanding tickets. We look forward to supporting our partners at DCPS and our school communities in providing safe, secure, and clean buildings that are ready for learning on the first day of school.

### **Related Documents:**

- [https://www.oig.dc.gov/sites/default/files/Reports/DCOIG\\_Report\\_24-E-01-GA0.pdf](https://www.oig.dc.gov/sites/default/files/Reports/DCOIG_Report_24-E-01-GA0.pdf)

- <https://www.washingtonpost.com/education/2025/07/21/dc-school-safety-inspector-general/>
- <https://www.washingtoninformer.com/dcps-safety-recommendations-oig/>