

44. Authorization of Payment to Council of the Great City Schools for Membership Dues FY26 (\$63,637) – Added 5.13.2025

## **Action Item - 44**

**Board of Education Meeting Date:** 5/29/2025

**Title:** Authorization of Payment to Council of the Great City Schools for Membership Dues FY26 (\$63,637) – Added 5.13.2025

### **Action Under Consideration:**

The Administration recommends that the Board of Education authorize payment by The School District of Philadelphia, through the Superintendent or his designee, subject to funding, as follows:

**To:** Council of the Great City Schools

**Purpose:** To pay membership dues for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2025

**Start Date:** 07/01/2025

**End Date:** 06/30/2026

**Compensation not to exceed:** \$63,637

**Location(s):** Administrative Offices

### **Renewal Option:**

Number of options: 2; Duration of each option: 1 year

### **Maximum Compensation authorized per option period:**

104% of the prior year's membership dues

### **Description:**

#### **Why is this authorization needed?**

The School District of Philadelphia (District) has been a member of the Council of the Great City Schools (CGCS) for many years and believes that the benefits gained far exceed the annual membership dues. CGCS is a coalition of the nation's largest urban public school systems. Founded in 1956 and incorporated in 1961, CGCS is located in Washington, DC, where it works to promote urban education through legislation, research, media relations, instruction, management, technology and other special projects designed to improve the quality of urban education. CGCS serves as the national voice for urban public school systems, providing ways to share promising practices and address common concerns. CGCS keeps the nation's lawmakers, the media, and the public informed about the progress and problems in big-city schools. The organization does this through legislation, communications, research, and technical assistance. Staff with responsibilities for curricula, research and testing, finance, legal,

operations, personnel, technology, legislation, communications, and other areas confer regularly under the auspices of the CGCS to share concerns and solutions and discuss what works in boosting achievement and managing operations.

In addition to the general benefits of membership described above, the District has received Philadelphia-specific services and support from CGCS. On a periodic basis, the District solicits the assistance of CGCS staff and other CGCS members for guidance regarding improvement on the District's educational and administrative operations and to remain current regarding industry best practices. When requested, CGCS has provided technical assistance or deployed study teams at no material cost to the District given its membership status. Therefore, the District would like to continue its membership in CGCS and is seeking authorization to pay membership dues for the 2025-2026 fiscal year.

**Funding Source(s):** FY26 Operating

**Office Originating Request:**  
Superintendent's Office (CEO)

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