

SCHOOL BOARD ACTION REPORT



DATE: March 11, 2020
FROM: Ms. Denise Juneau, Superintendent
LEAD STAFF: Sherri Kokx, Senior Advisor to the Superintendent 206-252-0634
Diane DeBacker, Chief Academic Officer, 206-252-0180
Cashel Toner, Executive Director of Curriculum, Assessment and Instruction, 206-252-0049
Heather Brown, Director Early Learning, 206-252-0093
James Bush, Director School & Community Partnerships, 206-252-0513

For Introduction: March 25, 2020

For Action: April 7, 2020

1. TITLE

Approval of Families, Education, Preschool, and Promise (FEPP) Levy funding for Preschool Services for the 2020 – 2021 School Year.

2. PURPOSE

This Board Action Report approves the acceptance of grant funding totaling \$7,300,000 from the Families, Education, Preschool, and Promise Levy to provide Preschool Services in Seattle Public Schools (the District).

3. RECOMMENDED MOTION

I move that the School Board authorize the Superintendent to accept FEPP Levy grant funds from the City of Seattle, Department of Education and Early Learning (DEEL) totaling \$7,300,000 for the 2020-21 school year to continue to operate 26 preschool classrooms and open three new Seattle Preschool Program (SPP) classrooms including SPP and full day Head Start; and convert one existing SPP to SPP Plus, and one Head Start to Head Start Plus, for a total of 29 classrooms, with any minor additions, deletions and modifications deemed necessary by the Superintendent, and to take any necessary actions and enter into service agreements to accept the grant funds.

4. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

a. Background

Through the FEPP Levy, DEEL and the District's, Department of Early Learning have designed and implemented innovative preschool programming for a broad continuum of students. Currently, the District offers full-day, inclusive preschool in the SPP Plus model at seven schools for a total of fourteen classrooms. This inclusive programming allows students with disabilities to participate in high-quality preschool experiences with their same age peers.

In alignment with the Strategic Plan, this proposal focuses on reaching preschool age students furthest from educational justice. The proposed expansion of 3 classrooms and conversion of 3 additional classes (existing part day Head Start programs to full day Head Start and SPP/Head Start to Plus) targets building full day, inclusive programming at four of the 13 Strategic Plan Literacy Focus Schools. Additionally, the district proposes to pilot Head Start Plus programming to serve students with disabilities in the Head Start classroom.

The District has provided high-quality early learning preschool programs since 2015 through the City of Seattle Preschool Program Levy partnership. Beginning in 2017, the District has also provided high-quality, inclusive preschool programming in SPP Plus to young children with disabilities through special education services and supports. Additionally, SPP has provided SPS funding for full-day Head Start preschool programming since 2017.

In the 2019-2020 school year, the Department of Early Learning in SPS serves 492 preschool students across 26 SPS SPP classrooms (6 SPP, 14 SPP Plus, 6 SPP Head Start).

1. 2020-2021 Continued Funding Supported

Arbor Heights SPP Plus (2 classrooms); Bailey Gatzert, SPP Plus (2 classrooms); B.F. Day, SPP Plus (2 classrooms); Boren STEM, SPP Plus (1 classroom); Broadview Thomson, Head Start full day (2 classrooms); Cedar Park, SPP (2 classrooms); Dearborn Park, SPP (1 classroom); Highland Park, SPP (1 classroom); John Muir, full day Head Start (1 classroom); Olympic Hills, SPP (1 classroom) and Head Start Plus (1 classroom); Rising Star, SPP Plus (2 classrooms); Roxhill @E.C. Hughes, full day Head Start (2 classrooms); Sand Point, SPP (1 classroom); South Shore, SPP Plus (3 classrooms); Thornton Creek, SPP Plus (2 classrooms)

2. 2020-2021 Expansion Funding Requested

Emerson (full-day Head Start), John Muir (full-day Head Start), West Seattle Elementary (SPP Plus and Head Start Plus), Olympic Hills (SPP Plus and Head Start Plus).

3. Total Value Year 2020-21: \$7,300,000

The current Partnership Agreement with DEEL acknowledges the critical early learning years with a commitment to inclusive programming. As outlined in the FEPP Levy 2019-20 Partnership Agreement: “SPS and DEEL will continue to work collaboratively on educational support services for children receiving special education services by strengthening the SPP Plus model, increasing the number of sites, and expanding the continuum of services for students with disabilities in inclusive settings; subject to capacity, space, and funding, and SPS’ legal obligations. SPS is responsible for providing Free and Appropriate Public Education

(FAPE) to students with disabilities. The Seattle Preschool Program will make the necessary program adjustments for SPS to comply with federal and state law applicable to serving students with disabilities.”

Working together, DEEL and SPS recognize the following priorities identified in the FEPP Ordinance:

- Invest in Seattle children, students, families, and communities who have been historically underserved to increase access to educational opportunities across the education continuum.
- Assure data-driven and outcomes-based decision making.
- Implement or continue evidence-based strategies and promising practices to improve program quality and achieve equity in educational outcomes.
- Provide access to capacity-building opportunities among partner organizations for historically underserved Seattle communities to improve program instruction, quality, and infrastructure.

Multiple agreements collectively define the working relationship between the District and the DEEL:

- Service Agreements. Service Agreements are contracts that define the specific roles and responsibilities of each party for each project/scope of work funded by the FEPP Levy. Service Agreements are renegotiated annually.
- General Agency Agreement (GAA). The District and DEEL negotiated a single GAA which establishes the general terms and conditions applicable to all Service Agreements. The GAA was signed on 10/21/2019 and will be incorporated into each Service Agreement without further negotiation or amendment, provided that DEEL and the District may mutually agree to amend the GAA from time to time.
- Data Sharing Agreement. The DSA will be a contract to share data according to certain terms and conditions. It is negotiated annually and describes the purpose and responsibilities of each party for the contract year with respect to data, including any funding.
- Partnership Agreement. The Partnership Agreement, signed on 04/24/2019, outlines the roles and responsibilities for DEEL and Seattle Public Schools with respect to the City of Seattle FEPP.

Contracted programs that meet implementation expectations and performance targets through annual review will continue to receive a performance pay award. Service Agreements will define the specific work and be renegotiated annually.

b. Alternatives

The alternative to this motion is to reject grant funds from the City of Seattle for the Seattle Preschool Program. This is not recommended as these funds provide support for fulfilling the District goal of eliminating opportunity gaps, in this case the kindergarten preparedness gap, as well as reaching students furthest from educational justice in alignment with the Strategic Plan.

c. Research

It is well documented that the beginning years of all children's lives are critical for building the early foundations of learning and wellness needed for success in school and later in life. During these years, children's brains develop rapidly, influenced by the experiences they share with their families, teachers, peers, and in their communities. There is strong evidence to show that young children who participate in high-quality preschool programs enter school more ready to learn than their peers.

The National Institute for Early Education Research at Rutgers University and Cultivate Learning at the University of Washington have conducted evaluations of the demonstration phase of the Seattle Preschool program. Reports from the SPP impact evaluation assessed classroom quality and children's learning. The evaluation includes information on the children served, children's learning and development during the school year, and program quality across the Seattle Preschool Program to date. The NIEER Report, *Pre-k in American Cities* analyzed ten key policies that are recognized as standards for highly effective programs, demonstrating that SPP has kept pace with other highly regarded city-wide programs in Boston, New York and San Antonio, and is the only city to earn 10/10 quality benchmarks.

Research indicates that meaningful inclusion is beneficial to children with and without disabilities across a variety of developmental domains. Children with and without disabilities, can make significant developmental and learning progress in inclusive settings. Children with and without disabilities in inclusive early childhood programs also demonstrate stronger social- emotional skills than their peers in separate settings. Meaningful inclusion in high-quality early childhood programs can support children with disabilities in reaching their full potential resulting in broad societal benefits.

In 2015, the US Department of Education submitted a policy statement that all young children with disabilities should have access to inclusive high-quality early childhood programs, where they are provided with individualized and appropriate support in meeting high expectations. Coinciding with this position statement, SPS Early Learning Department convened a Preschool Taskforce at the direction of the SPS Board. DEEL, as well as other community stakeholders participated on the Taskforce. The taskforce produced a Preschool Taskforce Final Report and inclusion statement directing both entities to pilot and expand inclusive preschool programs. In 2017, SPP Plus was piloted in four SPS preschool classrooms and has since expanded, currently operating 14 SPP Plus classrooms across the district.

The Head Start Administration for Children and Families (OHS) states that decades of scientific research documents the strong and lasting impact of high-quality early learning experiences on child outcomes. Head Start's mission is to promote the school readiness of young children from low-income families. Research suggests that having high-quality, full school day and full school year care is particularly important for low-income children to succeed in kindergarten and beyond. Based on this research, OHS is working to expand the number of children who participate in full school day and full school year or

continuous programs. Currently there is only funding for up to 45% of all national programs.

5. FISCAL IMPACT/REVENUE SOURCE

Fiscal impact to this action will be the receipt of an amount of revenue up to \$7,300,000 (current 26 classroom cost + estimated cost for up to 3 new classrooms).

The revenue source for this motion is the City of Seattle Families, Education, Preschool, and Promise Levy.

DEEL and the District will negotiate Service Agreements for the Seattle Preschool Program classrooms with the City of Seattle to fund programming throughout the remaining terms of the Families, Education, Preschool, and Promise.

Expenditure: ☐ One-time ☐ Annual ☐ Multi-Year ☐ N/A

Revenue: ☐ One-time ☒ Annual ☐ Multi-Year ☐ N/A

6. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

With guidance from the District's Community Engagement tool, this action was determined to merit the following tier of community engagement:

☐ Not applicable

☒ Tier 1: Inform

☐ Tier 2: Consult/Involve

☐ Tier 3: Collaborate

Building and improving the Seattle Preschool Program through community engagement has been an ongoing process shared between community, various departments within SPS, and the City of Seattle. These are actions undertaken to gather family and community input to inform program decision-making:

- A Preschool Taskforce was formed in May 2016 at the request of the SPS School Board. One of its main tasks was to assess the risks and benefits of sustaining and expanding preschool offerings in SPS, and to make recommendations on the development of special education inclusion preschool classrooms. The final recommendations in the Preschool Taskforce Final Report submitted in January 2017 to the Superintendent, continue to inform our decisions as we expand access to SPS preschool.

- Since the Spring of 2017 the City of Seattle’s DEEL conducts a Family Survey which is distributed to all SPP families. For the 2018-2018 school year, 93.9% of parents agreed that their child had a satisfactory overall experience.
- Head Start sites included in this proposal are conditional until parent and community input, gathered via the local Policy Council, is considered. Policy Council governance responsibilities include voting on program design and operation, and long- and short-term planning goals and objectives. Further alignment with local and community wide needs are ensured by the annual community-wide strategic planning and needs assessment and self-assessment.

7. EQUITY ANALYSIS

SPS and the City of Seattle have engaged in a process to ensure that the FEPP Levy will prioritize programs that advance educational equity for historically underserved groups including African-American/Black, Hispanic/Latino, Native American, Pacific Islander, underserved Asian populations, other students of color, refugees and immigrants, homeless, English language learners, and LGBTQ students. The City of Seattle used the Racial Equity Toolkit to inform the development of the FEPP Ordinance and collaborated with the District in the development of the Implementation & Evaluation Plan approved by DEEL.

FEPP is a targeted investment approach that will articulate and support SPS’s Strategic Plan and other District Initiatives. The District will continue to partner with DEEL to ensure that a Racial Equity Analyses process is fully integrated into FEPP award processes.

We are working in partnership with DEEL to ensure that racial equity analysis is grounded in all decision-making processes through a defined SPS and DEEL Workgroup Structure. Committed to serving students furthest from educational justice, workgroup members including SPS and DEEL leadership, will meet on a monthly basis to ensure strategic alignment, authorize work, make critical decisions, share information, and highlight successes and challenges.

8. STUDENT BENEFIT

The programming funded by the FEPP Levy will provide many benefits to students by providing preschool classrooms across our district, culturally responsive, physical and mental health programming to support learning in grades K-12, college and job-readiness experiences that promote high school graduation, and access to post-secondary education and training.

9. WHY BOARD ACTION IS NECESSARY

- ☐ Amount of contract initial value or contract amendment exceeds \$250,000 (Policy No. 6220)
- ☒ Amount of grant exceeds \$250,000 in a single fiscal year (Policy No. 6114)
- ☐ Adopting, amending, or repealing a Board policy
- ☐ Formally accepting the completion of a public works project and closing out the contract

☐ Legal requirement for the School Board to take action on this matter

☐ Board Policy No. _____, [TITLE], provides the Board shall approve this item

☐ Other: _____

10. POLICY IMPLICATION

Policy No. 4265, School and Community Partnerships, indicates it is the policy of the Seattle School Board to create partnerships between Seattle Public Schools and the community. The Board is committed to the creation and implementation of effective school-community partnerships that enhance academic outcomes by providing high-quality services and instruction before, after and during the school day. Seattle Public Schools seeks to foster partnerships that further the District's vision, mission, and goals.

Policy No. 6114, Gifts, Grants, Donations and Fundraising Proceeds, requires Board approval to accept grant funds exceeding \$250,000.00.

11. BOARD COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

This motion was not discussed in committee due to the cancellation of the March 18, 2020 Executive Committee meeting.

12. TIMELINE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

Upon approval of this motion, SPS Early Learning Department and each new school will move forward with implementation plans, teachers will be hired, enrollment will begin, materials for new classrooms will be purchases and staff members will be oriented.

13. ATTACHMENTS

- Letter of Intent – Seattle Preschool Programs for funding for 2020-21 SY (for reference)
- Preschool Detail 2019-2021 (for reference)



Seattle Department of Education & Early Learning

Jenny A. Durkan, Mayor
Dwane Chappelle, Director

March 12, 2020

Michael Stone, Director
Grants and Strategic Partnerships
Seattle Public Schools
PO Box 34165
Seattle, WA 98124-1165

RE: Letter of Intent – Seattle Preschool Program funding for 2020-21 SY

Dear Mr. Stone:

This letter is to inform Seattle Public Schools (SPS) that the Seattle Department of Education and Early Learning (DEEL) intends to fund a maximum of 29 Seattle Preschool Program (SPP) classrooms in the 2020-21 school year. The classrooms include SPP-Head Start blended, SPP- Head Start Plus, SPP Core, and SPP Plus models. Funding for these classrooms is approximately \$7.3 Million, inclusive of SPS's indirect rate (currently 13.83%). The total amount includes two types of compensation: 1) slot payment (including 15% performance pay) and 2) other payment (not subject to performance pay). The City is committed to funding these 29 classrooms through the 2025-2026 School Year based on the currently projected costs as of March 12, 2020. Any significant change in the costs of operating classrooms would need to be collectively assessed in future school years.

This program is funded by the Families, Education, Preschool, and Promise Levy. Investment of FEPP funding is governed by:

- The current and effective Partnership Agreement between DEEL and SPS
- The adopted FEPP Implementation & Evaluation Plan
- The current and effective General Agency Agreement between DEEL and SPS

Funding amounts will be confirmed as the contract with SPS is finalized. Please contact DEEL staff if you have any questions.

Respectfully,

Dwane Chappelle, Director

cc:

Monica Liang-Aguirre, DEEL
Tim Wolfe, DEEL
Leilani Dela Cruz, DEEL
Monica Oujidani, DEEL
Gabriela Dionisio, DEEL
Mao Svy, DEEL
David Liang, DEEL

Denise Juneau, SPS
Dr. Diane DeBacker, SPS
Carri Campbell, SPS
Cashel Toner, SPS
JoLynn Berge, SPS
Sherri Kokx, SPS
James Bush, SPS

Heather Brown, SPS
Patricia A Campbell, SPS

Current and Proposed Seattle Public Schools' Preschool Programs 2019-2021. SPP Programs dependent on funding through the Families, Education, Preschool, and Promise Levy negotiated annually.

2019-20 SPP Sites

Site	Program Model	Classrooms	Enrollment
Arbor Heights	SPP Plus	2	36 (10 SPED)
Bailey Gatzert	SPP Plus	2	36 (10 SPED)
BF Day	SPP Plus	2	36 (10 SPED)
Boren STEM	SPP Plus	1	18 (5 SPED)
Broadview Thomson	SPP Head Start	2	40
Cedar Park	SPP	2	40
Dearborn Park	SPP	1	20
EC Hughes	SPP Head Start	2	40
Highland Park	SPP	1	20
Olympic Hills	SPP/ SPP Head Start*	2	40
Sand Point	SPP	1	20
Rising Star @ AAA	SPP Plus	2	36 (10 SPED)
South Shore	SPP Plus	3	54 (10 SPED)
Thornton Creek	SPP Plus	2	36 (10 SPED)
West Seattle*	SPP Head Start*	1	20
*Converted to Plus in 20-21		26	492 (65 SPED)

TOTAL 2019-20	Program Model	Classrooms	Enrollment
	SPP	6	120
	SPP Plus	14	252 (65 SPED)
	SPP Head Start	6	120
	Total	26	492 (65 SPED)

Proposed 2020-21 SPS Enrollment #s

TOTAL 2020-21	Program Model	Classrooms	Enrollment
	SPP	5	100
	SPP Plus	15	270 (75 SPED)
Add 5 SPED Slots	SPP Plus South Shore	1	18 (5 SPED)
	SPP Head Start	6	120
	SPP Head Start Plus	2	36 (10 SPED)
	Total	29	544 (90 SPED)

TOTAL Dev PreK*	Program Model	Classrooms	Enrollment
2020-2021	Licton Springs	1	20
	Total	17.5	350 SPED

**Dev PreK currently has 17.5 classrooms. For the 2020-2021 school year West Seattle Dev PreK will be converted to a SPP Head Start Plus and Licton Springs will open a new Dev PreK classroom.*

TOTAL Head Start	Program Model	Classes	Enrollment
2020-2021	Full Day	12*	236
	Part Day	6	117
	Total	18	353

**Full Day Head Start totals include the 6 SPP Head Start/2 Head Start Plus sites noted above 120/36 students.*

Proposed 2020-21 SPP Expansion Sites:

Emerson (full-day Head Start), John Muir (full-day Head Start), West Seattle Elementary (SPP Plus and Head Start Plus), Olympic Hills (SPP Plus and Head Start Plus)