



Seattle Department of Education & Early Learning

Jenny A. Durkan, Mayor
Dwane Chappelle, Director

February 28, 2019

Dear City Council,

The Council requires that before the Executive submits to the Council the Families, Education, Preschool and Promise (FEPP) Levy Implementation and Evaluation Plan, the Executive will seek the recommendation of the Levy Oversight Committee (LOC), per City Council Ordinance 125604. Investing in equitable access to high-quality education helps students and their families optimize their potential. We must come together to make sure our kids have the chance to get the good jobs of the future and have real economic opportunity. We know that opportunity gaps persist and disproportionately impact students from historically underserved communities. We must act now to address this inequity.

The Department of Education and Early Learning (DEEL) engaged the LOC over three meetings (January 24, February 7, and February 28, 2019) and made modifications to the plan based on our recommendations in the following areas:

- Maintain DEEL’s flexibility for course corrections over the 7 years
- Strengthen race-based focus of outcomes
- Strengthen commitment to complete and implement recommendations from Racial Equity Toolkits
- Make more explicit prioritized populations and eligibility for Seattle School District and public charter schools
- Operate Seattle Preschool Program according to federal guidelines for students with special needs or with IEPs
- Strengthen accountability for Seattle Colleges in implementation of Seattle Promise

On Thursday, February 28, the LOC voted to recommend the Implementation and Evaluation Plan with 100 percent support. In addition, at the meeting individual committee members identified some issues for further consideration by Council as it goes through its process:

- Ensure that there is money for evaluation of K-12 and Seattle Promise investments, without reducing the amount of money for substantive K-12 investments.
- Consider prioritization for Seattle Promise including, but not limited to, prioritization for students experiencing homelessness.

LEVY OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Stephan Blanford
Phyllis Campano
Mackenzie Chase
Trish Dziko
Donald Felder
Nicole Grant
Erin Okuno
Constance Rice
Rachael Steward
Kimberly Walker
Greg Wong
Mayor Jenny A. Durkan
Councilmember Lorena González
Superintendent Denise Juneau
Schoolboard Director Edén Mack
Chancellor Shouan Pan

- The Seattle Promise equity scholarship may cover things like books and fees, but not the full costs of housing and child care. Consider the true cost of student needs and clarify what may, and may not, be covered.
- Continue to monitor progress and work towards single application for SPP & child care.
- Given that the school-based K-12 investments are multiyear and will be in fewer schools than the prior levy, ensure that there is accountability and flexibility to allow for changes in which schools receive funds should the need arise.
- The Implementation and Evaluation Plan places significant emphasis on SPP, college readiness, and Seattle Promise. Ensure that elementary and middle school investments also receive adequate focus and emphasis.
- Protect adequate K-5 funding.
- Consider impacts on future hiring of faculty when enrollment increases due to Promise prioritize full time.
- Affirm prioritization of educator diversity funds to recruit and retain more African-American male educators.
- Affirm use of trauma informed practices.
- Affirm support for in-home early education programs.
- Affirm that the LOC plays an important role in accountability and should be provided regular feedback on program performance so it can carry out its advisory duties.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve on the Families, Education, Preschool and Promise Levy Oversight Committee. We look forward to engaging Council through the legislative process.

Respectfully submitted,

The Families, Education, Preschool and Promise
Levy Oversight Committee