

# Historical Overview Families and Education Levy Seattle Preschool Program Levy

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Gender Equity, Safe Communities, New Americans & Education  
Committee

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**Seattle** Department of  
Education & Early Learning

# Briefing Purpose

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- Provide a historical account of how the Families and Education Levy was created and changed over time
- Introduce the Seattle Preschool Program Levy
- Details about the current activities supported by each Levy will be provided in subsequent presentations



# City of Seattle's Families and Education Levy

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- First passed in 1990
- Product of Mayor Norm Rice's Education Summit Efforts
- Five key goal areas identified by community members
- Mayor prioritizes helping children be “safe, healthy, and ready to learn.”
- \$69 million over seven years



# 1990 Levy Components

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- Early Childhood Development (25% of Levy )
- School Based Student/Family Services (23% of Levy)
- Comprehensive Student Health Services (29% of Levy)
- Out of School Activities (19% of Levy)
- Created the Office for Education and a Levy Oversight Committee



# 1997 Levy

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- Renewed at \$69 million over 7 years
- Stronger focus on meeting the social and developmental needs of young adolescents.
- Approximately 60% of all Levy funds support programs in Seattle Public Schools
- Over 150 community agencies receiving Levy funds.



# 1997 Levy Components

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- Ensure that children and youth are ready to learn and do well at school. (Early Childhood Development 16%)
- Empower middle and high school students to be healthy and make healthy choices. (Comprehensive Student Health Services 32%)
- Engage children and youth in safe and constructive out-of-school activities. (Out of School Activities 25%)
- Enable families to nurture, support and guide their children and help them succeed in school; help schools provide a caring, encouraging environment for students and families. (School-Based Student/Family Services 27%)

# 2004 Levy

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- Expanded to \$117 million
- Based on community input, much stronger focus on academic achievement
- Adopted an Outcome Funding approach
  - Levy funds are “invested” in achieving specific numerical targets in educational outcomes or indicators of improvement
- Funding awarded on competitive basis and targeted to greatest needs
- Community agencies required to meet new qualifications to receive funds

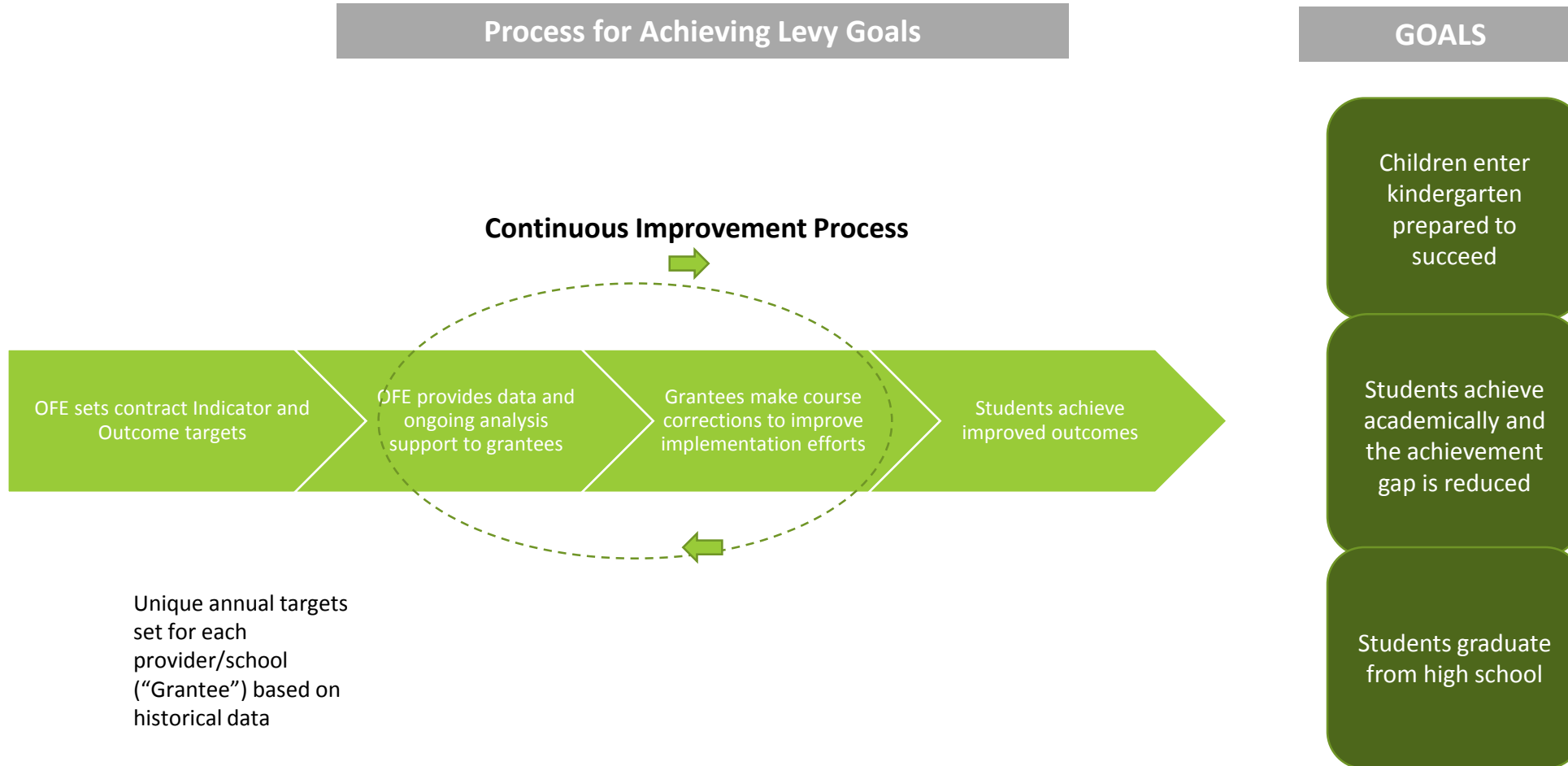
# 2004 Levy Outcomes

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- School Readiness
- Academic Achievement and Reduction of the Academic Achievement Gap
- Dropout Reduction



# 2004 Levy Outcome Funding Framework



# 2004 Levy Components

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- Early Learning
- Student Health Services
- Seattle Team for Youth
- Out-of-School Time
- Middle School Support Program
- Family Support and Family Involvement

# 2004 Levy Mid-Course Changes

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- Discontinued Family Engagement Activities
  - Not sufficiently targeted toward students and families in need
- Discontinued the Seattle Team for Youth
  - Minimal results in reengaging disconnected youth to school
- Created a new 9<sup>th</sup> Grade High School investment
  - Based on research indicating the importance of 9<sup>th</sup> grade success to high school completion
- Created the “innovation school” model
  - Greater control by school principals over resources
  - Individual school goals based on student data

# 2011 Levy

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- Expanded to \$235 million
- Graduation goal modified to include college and career readiness
- Innovation school model embedded in elementary, middle and high school investments
- Elementary school investments include family support services as option for principals to prioritize
- New Community Based Family Support

# 2011 Levy (continued)

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- High school innovation and health investments include Interagency Academy
- Health services expanded to eight elementary schools and oral health
- New School based Health Clinic at World School
- Summer programming initiated for elementary, middle and high school students



# Four Guiding 2011 Levy Documents

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## 1. **Seattle City Council Ordinance 123567 – November, 2011**

- Created Levy Ballot measure

## 2. **Levy Implementation and Evaluation Plan – December, 2011**

- Delineates goals and specific measures used to assess progress.
- Sets targets and milestones.
- Specifies elements critical to district/city partnership.

## 3. **Partnership Agreement with Seattle Public Schools**

- Identifies the roles and responsibilities of each partner

## 4. **Data Sharing Agreement with Seattle Public Schools**

- Provides DEEL access to student data to measure student outcomes, evaluate program effectiveness, award performance payments
- Supports data access for Levy-funded community-based organizations (CBOs)



# 2011 Levy Priorities

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- Children at risk, including English Language Learners,
- Children, birth to age 5, likely to attend low performing schools,
- Students with the highest level of academic need,
- Schools with the highest level of academic need,



# 2011 Levy Priorities (continued)

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- Maximize impact by funding a targeted number of schools and students,
- Build on the success of previous investments, where possible,
- Use evidence-based and/or promising practices to improve academic outcomes, and
- Invest in family strengthening practices.





# 2014 Seattle Preschool Program (SPP) Levy

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- \$58.3 million, four year Levy to provide a demonstration phase of high quality preschool services
- Long-term goal is universal access for 4 year olds and for families of 3 year olds making less than 300% FPL
- Levy Ordinance requires setting eligibility standards, class size, curricula, and access



# 2014 SPP Demonstration Goals

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- SPP has been rolled-out in accordance with its Implementation Plan.
- How best to support SPP providers to improve quality.
- How children who participate in SPP are performing compared to non-participants.
- How City processes can best support SPP and the community.
- How to incorporate high-quality Family Child Care providers into SPP.