



Legislation Text

File #: Res 31748, Version: 2

CITY OF SEATTLE

RESOLUTION _____

A RESOLUTION adopting the Seattle Education Action Plan.

WHEREAS, providing access to a quality education is a fundamental purpose of government, enshrined in Washington State's Constitution as the State's paramount duty; and

WHEREAS, despite significant efforts to provide an equitable education system, there persists an opportunity gap between white students and students of color and English Language Learners, with Seattle Public School District ("School District") students of color meeting third grade reading standards at a rate 31 percent lower than white students; and

WHEREAS, while the School District is directly responsible for serving our public school students in our classrooms, the support and assistance of all community members is needed to help all children optimize their full potential; and

WHEREAS, in 2016 over 2,000 community members across Seattle participated in conversations about how to eliminate this opportunity gap, culminating in an Education Summit on April 30, 2016; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Murray convened an Education Advisory Group to develop recommendations for the City and the School District to more vigorously address this persistent opportunity gap; and

WHEREAS, the Education Advisory Group delivered their recommendations to the Mayor on November 17, 2016, with the goal of helping 70 percent of African American/Black students and other students of color achieve success in college or a credential program, so they can take advantage of the economic opportunities in our vibrant city; and

WHEREAS, the goal, implementation guidelines, recommendations, and priorities of the Education Advisory

Group were incorporated into the Seattle Education Action Plan, setting out a vision for eliminating the opportunity gap by focusing new and existing resources on effective approaches such as but not limited to diversifying the educator workforce, dual language learning, strengthening family engagement, reducing disproportionality in discipline, or growing learning programs to improving academic results for all students; and

WHEREAS, the 2017 Adopted Budget included funding for initial investments in these recommendations including expanding mentoring programs, creating a new innovation high school investment, broadening culturally based summer learning opportunities, investing in post-secondary access, expanding summer literacy for elementary students, providing executive function training for middle schoolers, and expanding a home visitation program; and

WHEREAS, the Education Action Plan establishes further priorities for investments in education supports as resources become available; and

WHEREAS, these investments will be implemented using guidelines recommended by the Education Advisory Group that will directly tie them to eliminating educational disparities for African American/Black students and other students of color; ensure ongoing authentic community, family, and student engagement; continue a whole-child approach to support Seattle's children; and engage community-based and cultural/language-based organizations to achieve improved outcomes for Seattle's students; and

WHEREAS, the School District has signed a letter of intent to commit to sustaining and strengthening an ongoing collaboration toward achieving the shared goal of eliminating opportunity gaps for Seattle students; and

WHEREAS, a cross-sector partnership between the City, School District, business, philanthropy, higher education, educators, students, parents, and community-based organizations is proposed to be formed to facilitate implementation of the Education Advisory Group recommendations; and

WHEREAS, the Families and Education Levy and the Seattle Preschool Program Levy both expire in 2018, and the Seattle Department of Education and Early Learning will use the Seattle Education Action Plan to help inform the development of proposals to renew those levies; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of the Education Action Plan is to guide City investments with respect to eliminating the education opportunity gap in Seattle and making quality education available to each and every student so that they can fully participate in the dynamism of our wonderful city; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SEATTLE, THE MAYOR CONCURRING, THAT:

Section 1. The Seattle Education Action Plan (“Plan”), a copy of which is included as Attachment A to this resolution, is adopted.

Section 2. The City will continue to work collaboratively with the Seattle Public School District to implement this Plan. District leadership and the Seattle Department of Education and Early Learning will annually present to the City Council and the Seattle Public Schools Board of Directors steps taken to implement this Plan.

Section 3. The Plan’s Strategies and Actions will help inform the City’s development of proposals to renew the Families and Education Levy and the Seattle Preschool Program Levy.

Adopted by the City Council the _____ day of _____, 2017, and signed by me in open session in authentication of its adoption this _____ day of _____, 2017.

President _____ of the City Council

The Mayor concurred the _____ day of _____, 2017.

Edward B. Murray, Mayor

Filed by me this _____ day of _____, 2017.

Monica Martinez Simmons, City Clerk

(Seal)

Attachments:
Attachment A - Seattle Education Action Plan