

May 26, 2022

Dear City Council,

We the Families, Education, Preschool, and Promise (FEPP) Levy Oversight Committee, are writing to convey our support for the suite of FEPP amendments submitted to Council by the Department of Education and Early Learning (DEEL) and the Executive.

DEEL staff first engaged the LOC regarding possible FEPP amendments on June 8, 2021. At the August 26, 2021 meeting, DEEL shared a detailed overview of proposed policy objectives.

During the August meeting, our members expressed general support for the proposed amendments, and provided feedback for DEEL consideration:

1. Ensure investment in the Seattle Preschool Program (SPP) and three- and four-year-olds remains the priority for Early Learning investment area funds;
2. Regarding a proposal to allow children with individualized education plans (IEPs) to enroll in the Seattle Public Schools (SPS) Seattle Preschool Program-Plus model as soon as they turned three, we requested additional information regarding how referrals to the program are made as well as enrollment demographics;
3. Ensure that any programmatic modifications or expansion taken in response to COVID-19 are developed with equity in mind, and are not universal approaches.

DEEL and SPS representatives provided more information about the SPP Plus program at a subsequent September 9, 2021 LOC meeting. Our understanding following that discussion, is that prior to age 3, it is clinical providers who identify students in need of specialized services. While at the surface no racial disparities were observed related to SPP Plus enrollment in the 2021-22 school year, we advised and cautioned DEEL to monitor the impact of the policy on over-representation of students of color in special education services moving forward.

LOC members are in support of aligning FEPP policies related to preschool, as well as broader DEEL policies in childcare, to be in alignment with county, state, and federal enrollment and tuition policies.

**At the September 9 LOC meeting, members discussed the proposal and voted to support the suite of amendments with 7 recommending approval, 1 abstaining, and 7 absent.** The LOC appreciates DEEL's early and thorough engagement with our body on these topics.

We look forward to continued work with DEEL, the Mayor's Office, and Council to steward the FEPP Levy.

Respectfully submitted,  
The FEPP Levy Oversight Committee

**FEPP LEVY OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE**

*Required Members*

Jenny A. Durkan, Mayor  
Lorena Gonzalez, Seattle City Council  
Brent Jones, SPS Superintendent  
Leslie Harris, SPS School Board  
Shouan Pan, Chancellor Seattle  
Colleges

*Appointed Members*

Trish Dziko  
Donald Felder  
Stephanie Gardner  
Susan Yu Yi Lee  
Jennifer Matter  
Erin Okuno  
Constance Rice  
Princess Shareef  
Manuela Slye  
Kimberly Walker



*Note: This list of LOC members reflects members at the time of the LOC vote on September 9, 2021*