



**Date:** May 27, 2015  
**To:** Education and Governance Committee  
**From:** Brian Goodnight, Council Central Staff  
**Subject:** Resolution 31587: Partnership Agreement with Seattle Public Schools

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At its June 3 meeting, the Education and Governance Committee will consider a proposed resolution approving of a partnership agreement with Seattle School District No. 1 (also known as Seattle Public Schools). This memo provides a brief summary of the partnership agreement and the timeline for consideration by the Seattle Public Schools Board of Directors.

### **Summary of Proposed Partnership Agreement**

In June 2014, the City Council approved Ordinance 124509 that submitted a proposition to the voters to levy property taxes to fund a four-year demonstration phase of the Seattle Preschool Program (SPP). The property tax levy was approved in November, and since that time the City has been preparing for the implementation of SPP this fall. To enable the participation of Seattle Public Schools (District) in SPP, Section 12 of Ordinance 124509 requires a partnership agreement between the City and the District establishing the parties' roles and responsibilities. Resolution 31587 and its Attachment 1, the proposed partnership agreement, have been submitted by the Executive to fulfill this requirement.

The partnership agreement will become effective upon adoption by the City Council and the District, and will remain in effect through August 31, 2019. The agreement contains some high-level principles for the City and the District's relationship as it pertains to SPP, such as: the City and the District will work cooperatively to promote positive preschool-to-kindergarten transitions; the City and the District will negotiate the District's number of SPP classrooms on an annual basis; and, neither City nor District funds will be used in ways that divert funds from their intended purposes.

The partnership agreement also describes the roles and responsibilities of the City and the District. The following lists contain a sampling of the responsibilities contained in the agreement:

#### *Examples of City Responsibilities*

- The City will reimburse the District for costs associated with its administrative responsibilities in relation to SPP.
- The City will ensure that all proposed evaluations: use approaches that lead to minimal disruption to students, District staff, and classrooms; comply with the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act; and have institutional review board approval.

- The City will work with the District to identify student special education needs, and will support the District in planning for the needs of incoming students.
- The City will work with the District to create SPP enrollment access in District facilities, and to create a plan for decentralized SPP enrollment.

#### *Examples of District Responsibilities*

- The District will provide designated identification numbers to the City for assignment to preschool participants.
- The District will accept Child Find referrals from SPP programs to evaluate children for special education needs.
- The District will adhere to all SPP quality requirements.
- The District's instructional staff for SPP programs will participate in professional development and coaching, to the extent that the requirements do not violate District responsibilities under the law or collective bargaining agreements.

#### **Timeline for District Consideration**

The proposed partnership agreement was introduced by the Seattle Public Schools Board of Directors on May 20, and is scheduled for a potential vote on June 3.

If the Board of Directors chooses to amend the agreement, conforming amendments should be considered by the City Council.

Alternatively, if the City Council chooses to amend the agreement, the amended version would need to be sent back to the Board of Directors for its consideration.