

PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT
SEATTLE SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 1 AND CITY OF SEATTLE
SUMMARY

Background: Section 12 of Ordinance 124509 requires that there be a Partnership Agreement between the City of Seattle and Seattle School District if the District chooses to participate in this program. The Agreement must be approved by the Seattle City Council and the Seattle Public Schools Board of Directors, and must be in effect before SPP levy proceeds may be spent on District programs or functions.

Preamble: We, the City and the District, embrace the understanding that quality early learning programs are critical for closing the readiness gap experienced by Seattle's students. ... These goals can be accomplished only in partnership with the City, the District, and the community.

Results: Funds are being invested to improve school readiness as measured by the Teaching Strategies Gold (TSG) and WaKIDS assessments. Additional measures will be developed as a Comprehensive Evaluation Strategy is adopted as required by the City Council. The ultimate goal is to improve school performance as measured by third grade reading, fourth grade math, and a reduction in the race-based disproportionalities in student achievement.

Principles

All City SPP levy funds are awarded to achieve measurable outcomes.

Agreements and Funding: The costs associated with programs within the purview of either entity assumed by the other entity will be negotiated through formal agreements. ... City funds will not be used to supplant state, District, or federal funds for District functions, nor will the District divert District funds solely intended for K-12 purposes to provide SPP services.

Alignment, Educational Continuity, and Kindergarten Transitions: The City and the District will work cooperatively to develop effective structures, procedures, and practices to promote positive preschool-to-kindergarten transitions for all SPP students in order to improve academic results for children.

Partnership and Collaboration: With the approval of District administration and Board of Directors, will negotiate the number of SPP classrooms the District will contract to manage annually.

The City will:

- Biannually assess the costs associated with the District's administrative responsibilities in relation to SPP and negotiate an agreement.
- Include district-appointed representatives in conversations about emerging policies, plans, and course corrections.

- Ensure that all proposed evaluations: use approaches that lead to minimal disruption to students, District staff, and classrooms; comply with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA); and have institutional review board approval.
- Work with the District to identify student special education needs and, with parent/guardian consent, communicate identified needs to the District to aid in planning.
- Provide the District with summary reports (at the aggregate level) about children’s SPP attendance and support District staff to plan for the needs of incoming students.
- Work with the District to create enrollment access in district facilities.
- Work with the District to create a plan for decentralized enrollment for SPP beginning in the 2019–2020 school year, or sooner if feasible.
- Work with the District and the State Department of Early Learning to support a collaborative approach to involving the District in these quality systems.
- Ensure that all City employees, while working in or visiting District buildings, must comply with all District policies.

The District will:

- Work with the Seattle Education Association (SEA) to ensure the District can meet the requirements of SPP. The City will pay the costs related to the professional development of SPP teachers in District-operated sites.
- Provide designated identification numbers to the City for assignment to preschool participants.
- Include City-appointed representatives in conversations about emerging policies, plans, and course corrections pertaining to early learning.
- Accept Child Find referrals from SPP programs to evaluate children for special education needs.
- Communicate all relevant District policies pertaining to City employees and others working or visiting District buildings by August 1 prior to each school year.

If the District elects to participate in SPP, the District will:

- Adhere to all SPP quality requirements.
- Develop job categories for HighScope-trained and Creative Curriculum-trained teachers to ensure stable staffing of SPP teachers in District-operated classrooms.
- Allow instructional staff from District-operated SPP programs to participate in professional development and coaching to the extent that the requirements do not violate District responsibilities under the law or collective bargaining agreement(s).
- Be eligible to apply for City funding for facilities improvements, expansions, and renovations for the purposes of providing City-funded early learning programs.

General Provisions: This Agreement and any subsequent amendments must be authorized by a resolution adopted by the Seattle City Council and by a resolution adopted by the Seattle Public Schools Board of Directors.