SEATTLE CITY COUNCIL
CENTRAL STAFF

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND EARLY LEARNING
2026 Proposed Budget
Policy Considerations

Select Budget Committee | October 16, 2025

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Budget Summary

	2025 Adopted	2026 Endorsed	2026 Proposed	% Change from 2025 Adopted*
Operating Appropriations by BSL				
Early Learning	$81.1M	$52.3M	$93.8M	16%
K-12 Programs	$54.4M	$36.6M	$59.7M	10%
Leadership and Administration	$9.2M	$6.3M	$11.4M	24%
Post-Secondary Programs	$6.5M	$5.5M	$11.9M	84%
Operating Subtotal	**$151.2M**	**$100.8M**	**$176.9M**	**17%**

**This table compares the Proposed Budget with the 2025 Adopted Budget instead of the 2026 Endorsed Budget, as the Endorsed Budget reflects only 6 months of levy funding from the 2018 FEPP Levy. FEPP Levy appropriations in the 2026 Proposed Budget assumes passage of the 2025 FEPP Levy ballot measure.*

Budget Summary

	2025 Adopted	2026 Endorsed	2026 Proposed	% Change from 2025 Adopted
Appropriation Totals (Operating)				
Total Appropriations	$151.2M	$100.8M	$176.9M	17%
Total FTE	125	125	125	0%
Revenues				
FEPP Levy*	$112.8M	$63.0 M	$169.8M	51%
General Fund	$15.9M	$15.9M	$7.0M	(56%)
Jumpstart Fund	$13.9M	$14.4M	--	(100%)
Sweetened Beverage Tax	$8.0 M	$7.5M	--	(100%)
Families and Education Levy (2011)	$0.6M	--	--	(100%)
Total Revenues	$151.2M	$100.8M	$176.8M	17%

**FEPP Levy revenues in the 2026 Proposed Budget represent the current FEPP Levy combined with the 2025 FEPP Levy, and assumes passage of the ballot measure.*

Policy Consideration

1. Council Guidance for FEPP Levy Funds

The FEPP Levy Ordinance requires that all Levy funds be spent in accordance with the terms of an Implementation and Evaluation (I&E) Plan, anticipated to be transmitted to Council in March 2026. The 2026 Proposed Budget proposes expenditures using certain assumptions and cost estimates (see Attachment 1 to the DEEL Overview and Policy Considerations Paper). While it is possible that proposed expenditures might change during the I&E Plan development, according to DEEL these line items will serve as the basis for the I&E Plan and are unlikely to change substantively.

Options:

A. Approve the budget as proposed; or
B. Provide further direction regarding the proposed FEPP Levy expenditures at this stage, in order to establish expectations or express Council priorities for the I&E Plan.

Questions?