



Seattle Department of Education & Early Learning

Jenny A. Durkan, Mayor
Dwane Chappelle, Director

October 26, 2020

Dear City Council,

Per City Council [Ordinance 125604](#), the Executive is required to seek the recommendation of the Families, Education, Preschool, and Promise (FEPP) Levy Oversight Committee (LOC) for any proposed changes in Levy funding which require Council approval by ordinance.

The Department of Education and Early Learning (DEEL) engaged the FEPP LOC on October 22, 2020 to discuss with us DEEL's proposed legislation to ratify prior acts taken in response to COVID-19 and grant DEEL temporary administrative authority to continue their adaptive response through the 2020-2021 school year in defined circumstances.

LOC members received a memo in advance of the October 22 meeting detailing the proposal and, during the meeting, we had the opportunity to provide feedback, propose modifications, and vote to recommend transmittal and approval of the legislation during the LOC meeting.

The LOC voted to support this legislation with 13 recommending approval, 1 abstaining, and 2 absent.¹

The FEPP LOC supports the stated goals of DEEL's proposed legislation for SY 2020-21 COVID-19 response and investment modifications. Advancing educational equity through the FEPP Levy is our central focus. We are pleased with the intentionality that DEEL and its partners have put into shaping this legislation and responding to the COVID-19 pandemic in our community—specifically, the Seattle Colleges in proposing to remove the two-year enrollment limit for current Promise students seeking to enroll part-time or defer in light of COVID-19 impacts. The diversity among Seattle Promise participants and recruitment of youth of color to the program is exciting.

As discussed by the LOC, the flexibility allowed in this legislation expresses the compassion that students, families, and providers need at this moment and models how large systems can accommodate populations who will, in the future, be the leaders for all of us. We asked questions regarding plans to maintain wraparound services for Promise scholars and sustain the persistence rate among part-time and deferred students, as well as questions about technology (hardware and software)

¹ There is currently one vacancy on the LOC.

FEPP LEVY OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

Required Members

Jenny A. Durkan, Mayor
Lorena González, Seattle City Council
Denise Juneau, SPS Superintendent
Chandra Hampson, SPS School Board
Shouan Pan, Chancellor Seattle Colleges

Appointed Members

Shelby Cooley
Trish Milines Dziko
Donald Felder
Stephanie Gardner
Nicole Grant
Susan Yu Yi Lee
Jennifer Matter
Erin Okuno
Constance Rice
Princess Shareef
Kimberly Walker



access for families and providers. We also stated the importance of data to track student performance and impact of services offered.

We agree that DEEL should be granted delegated authority to be flexible, timely, and proactive in how FEPP investments are modified or adapted to meet emergent needs that affect Seattle’s historically underserved communities. Therefore, we recommend that the City Council pass DEEL’s proposed legislation.

The proposed use of these funds is consistent with FEPP Levy goals and priorities as written in the [FEPP Levy Implementation and Evaluation Plan](#):

- Priority #1: Invest in Seattle children, students, families, and communities that have been historically underserved to increase access to educational opportunities across the education continuum.
- Principle #2: Ensure ongoing and authentic student, family, and community engagement and support.
- Principle #4: Ensure Levy proceeds are supplemental and complementary to existing public funding structures and services; funding is never used to supplant state-mandated services.
- Principle #7: Provide financial support that increases access to expanded learning opportunities and affordable services for families and educators.

We look forward to continued work with DEEL, the Mayor’s Office, and Council as the City continues to adapt and respond to the COVID-19 health crisis and its impacts on students, families, and providers.

Respectfully submitted,

The FEPP Levy Oversight Committee