

Budget Deliberations & Issue Identification

Department of Education and Early Learning

Select Budget Committee | October 13, 2021

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Budget Summary (\$ in 000s)

	2021 Adopted	2022 Proposed	% Change
Appropriations by BSL			
Early Learning	\$58,358	\$65,108	11.6%
K-12 Programs	\$33,835	\$38,254	13.1%
Leadership & Administration	\$7,057	\$7,620	8.0%
Post-Secondary Programs	\$5,212	\$12,282	135.6%
Total Appropriations	\$104,463	\$123,264	18.0%
Total FTEs	110.5	117.5	6.3%
Revenues			
General Fund	\$11,403	\$16,069	40.9%
Other Sources	\$93,060	\$107,195	15.2%
Total Revenues	\$104,463	\$123,264	18.0%



Background (1/2)

FEPP Levy Undesignated Fund Balance

Implementation & Evaluation Plan provides the following direction:

"...the priority for unspent and unencumbered funds at the end of each fiscal year will be to supplement the Seattle Preschool Program..."

"... Any other proposed use of annual underspend will be reviewed and recommended by the [Levy Oversight Committee] and approved by the Council through the annual budget process or other legislation."



Background (2/2)

FEPP Levy Undesignated Fund Balance (cont'd)

At the end of 2021, DEEL estimates the undesignated fund balance will be \$14.4 million.

- 2020: \$10 million
- 2021: \$4.4 million

DEEL recommends reserving funds to address potential risks in 2023-2026:

- Early Learning – projected funding gap of \$3-\$6 million
- Seattle Promise – projected funding gap of \$8-\$12 million



Issue Identification (1/8)

1. Seattle Promise Enhancements

The 2022 Proposed Budget includes \$6.7 million of Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery (CLFR) funds to continue investing in a set of enhancements to the Seattle Promise program.

DEEL received a \$4 million allocation from the first tranche of CLFR funding in June 2021 as part of Seattle Rescue Plan 1.



Issue Identification (2/8)

Table 1: Current and Proposed Use of CLFR Funds (\$ in 000s)

Enhancement	2021	2022	2023	Total
A. Increasing the Equity Scholarship	\$700	\$700	\$500	\$1,900
B. Enhance Support for Students	\$400	\$300	\$100	\$800
C. Program Re-Entry for Students	\$0	\$400	\$500	\$900
D. Readiness Academy/Academic Bridge	\$900	\$300	\$300	\$1,500
E. Enrollment Fees	\$200	\$200	\$0	\$400
F. Completion Commitment	\$800	\$800	\$400	\$2,000
G. Sustain Increased Enrollment	\$200	\$900	\$0	\$1,100
H. WA State Opportunity Scholarship Investment	\$200	\$200	\$0	\$400
I. Transfer Support to 4-Year College	\$500	\$500	\$0	\$1,000
J. Program Staffing Support	\$100	\$300	\$300	\$700
Total	\$4,000	\$4,600	\$2,100	\$10,700



Issue Identification (3/8)

Sustainability of Enhancements – five enhancements are considered ongoing, and will extend beyond the depletion of the one-time CLFR funds

Table 2: Ongoing Enhancements and Projected Funding Gaps (\$ in 000s)

Enhancement	2023*	2024	2025	2026	Total
A. Increasing the Equity Scholarship	\$200	\$700	\$700	\$700	\$2,200
B. Enhance Support for Students	\$100	\$400	\$400	\$400	\$1,300
D. Readiness Academy/Academic Bridge	\$200	\$500	\$500	\$300	\$1,500
G. Sustain Increased Enrollment	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$500	\$3,500
J. Program Staffing Support	\$0	\$400	\$400	\$200	\$1,000
Total	\$1,500	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$2,000	\$9,400

Numbers may not add up due to rounding

*The amounts in the 2023 column are in addition to the CLFR amounts for 2023 shown in Table 1



Issue Identification (4/8)

FEPP Implementation & Evaluation Plan provides the following direction:

"In the event that demand for Seattle Promise tuition supports exceed supply, tuition funds will be prioritized for low-income, first-generation (i.e. students who are first in their family to attend college), and/or African American/Black, Hispanic/Latino, Native American, Pacific Islander, underserved Asian populations, other students of color, refugee and immigrant, homeless, English language learners, and LGBTQ students."



Issue Identification (5/8)

Consistency with Racial Equity Toolkit Analysis – In December 2020, the Seattle Promise Racial Equity Toolkit (RET) Team released its final report on the Seattle Promise program.

RET Team members analyzed 14 program elements and provided recommendations and priority groupings for each of the analyzed elements.

The program enhancements that DEEL has pursued with CLFR funding include three of the RET Team’s high-priority items and two medium-priority items.



Issue Identification (6/8)

Abridged Table 3: Program Enhancements & RET Team Recommendations

Enhancement	Recommendations/Considerations	Priority
B. Enhance Support for Students	Designing support staff as a ratio does not seem equitable; Seattle Colleges should have flexibility in moving staff to meet student needs	Medium
C. Program Re-Entry for Students	Students should be allowed to re-enter the program	High
D. Readiness Academy/Academic Bridge and F. Completion Commitment	Leadership from program partners should develop a plan to address the systemic issue of students needing to take remedial courses; program could allow for coursework beyond the two-year or 90-credit limitation	High
E. Enrollment Fees	Mandatory and general fees for all 0 EFC students should be covered; mandatory fees for all 1-1000 EFC students should be covered	High
G. Sustain Increased Enrollment	Acknowledged Implementation & Evaluation Plan guidance; decision may need to be based on applications received in a previous year	Medium



Issue Identification (7/8)

Options:

- A. Prioritize CLFR funding toward the enhancements that are limited in duration, in recognition of the one-time funding source.
- B. Prioritize CLFR funding toward the enhancements that have been evaluated and prioritized by the RET Team, thereby potentially extending the duration of the CLFR support for those efforts.

Both of these options will need to address the contractual commitments DEEL has already entered into and the progress the department has made in hiring the two positions approved in the 2021 Mid-Year Supplemental.



Issue Identification (8/8)

Options (cont'd):

- C. Approve the proposed CLFR allocation and request that DEEL begin working on a legislative proposal for the Council to prioritize enrollment in the Seattle Promise program consistent with the priorities established in the FEPP Implementation & Evaluation Plan.
- D. No action



Questions?

Budget Timeline | FALL 2021

