

**2014 Seattle City Council Statement of Legislative Intent**

Ready for Notebook

Tab	Action	Option	Version
40	1	A	1

**Budget Action Title:** Report on Read and Rise program and other potential literacy programs

**Councilmembers:** Burgess; Clark; Conlin; Godden

**Staff Analyst:** Patricia Lee; Alex Pedersen

Date		Total	SB	BH	TR	RC	TB	NL	JG	SC	MO
	Yes										
	No										
	Abstain										
	Absent										

**Statement of Legislative Intent:**

The Council requests that by July 31, 2014 the Office for Education (OFE) prepare a report on the Read and Rise program and other potential alternative literacy programs. The report should include at least the following information:

- a. A full description of how the Read and Rise program was implemented, including the pre-schools and schools where it was offered, the number of parents/caregivers enrolled and number who completed the course,
- b. Whether parents and caregivers improved their understanding of how to help their children read and continue to strengthen their reading skills,
- c. Whether parents and caregivers increased the amount of time they spent reading to their children or engaging in literacy building activities such as storytelling,
- d. Whether children read more as a result of their parents’ participation in this program,
- e. Any recommended changes to strengthen the program such as focusing on a particular age, and
- f. Information on alternative literacy programs including but not limited to: Reach out and Read, Foundations in Literacy, Reading Wonders and Opening the World of Learning. This information should include descriptions of these programs, cost and any available evaluations.

Background

Learning to read and continuing to reading at grade level are among the most important foundational skills children need to be successful in school.

The 2014 Proposed Budget adds \$156,512 to the \$92,000 Council previously approved in the 2013 1<sup>st</sup> quarter supplemental ordinance for a total of \$248,612 to implement a pilot Read and Rise Literacy Program from July 2013 through June 2014 at 10 sites. Developed by Scholastic, the Read and Rise Literacy Program is designed to help parents and caregivers assist children develop and

strengthen their reading skills. OFE estimates that the funding will enable it to serve 150 families with children ages 3 to 8 and that 85% of the families will complete 90% of the sessions.

A pre- and post-survey of the participating parents and caregivers will be given to determine if parents increased their knowledge of how to help their children learn to read and improve their reading skills, if parents read to their children more and if children read more after taking the six week program.

The City has not implemented the Read and Rise program before. Information on the efficacy of this program and alternative literacy programs will help inform the Council's decision on what, if any, program the City should fund in 2015 and beyond.

**Responsible Council Committee(s):** Government Performance and Finance

**Date Due to Council:** July 31, 2014