

2014 Seattle City Council Statement of Legislative Intent

Ready for Notebook

Tab	Action	Option	Version
41	1	A	1

Budget Action Title: Request to elevate the Office for Education within the Department of Neighborhoods to a separate Department for Education and Early Learning

Councilmembers: Burgess; 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:

To take concrete action to support education that benefits Seattle’s children, their families, and our economic strength, this Statement of Legislative Intent requests that the existing Office for Education within the Department of Neighborhoods be elevated to a new Department for Education and Early Learning, with the Director reporting directly to the Mayor.

While the Council’s intent is to create this new department as part of its 2015-2016 biennium budget deliberations in the Fall of 2014, this Statement of Legislative Intent encourages the Executive to create it earlier in 2014 by executive direction and through a supplemental budget ordinance.

The creation of the new Department demonstrates the city government’s strong commitment to education and is a proactive action to achieve the following objectives:

- Focus the efforts of the office as its own department with a specific mission, which is growing/expanding to:
 - align the various education and early learning programs and initiatives to provide the best learning outcomes for children;
 - prepare for implementation of a voluntary, high-quality, universal preschool program for the city’s three- and four-year-olds; and
 - collaborate more closely with the Seattle School District to boost the academic achievement of students.
- Improve direct access to key decision-makers (e.g. Mayor, Council, Superintendent, School Board).

This SLI requires the Mayor to report to the Council by no later than June 30, 2014 on creation of the new department and the objectives stated above.

Responsible Council Committee(s): Government Performance and Finance

Date Due to Council: June 30, 2014