

SUMMARY and FISCAL NOTE*

Department:	Dept. Contact/Phone:	CBO Contact/Phone:
Department of Education & Early Learning	Monica Oujidani 684-5502	Lisa Gaccione 684-5539

** Note that the Summary and Fiscal Note describes the version of the bill or resolution as introduced; final legislation including amendments may not be fully described.*

1. BILL SUMMARY

Legislation Title: AN ORDINANCE relating to the 2018 Families, Education, Preschool, and Promise Levy; amending the levy implementation and evaluation plan adopted by Ordinance 125807 to grant the Department of Education and Early Learning temporary authority to modify the implementation and evaluation plan in response to the COVID-19 pandemic; and ratifying and confirming certain prior acts.

Summary and background of the Legislation: This ordinance amends the Families, Education, Preschool, and Promise (FEPP) Levy Implementation & Evaluation Plan (Plan) to grant the Department of Education and Early Learning (DEEL) temporary authority to modify the Plan without City Council approval by Ordinance in order to respond quickly to the conditions preventing in-person activities caused by the COVID-19 pandemic as well as the resulting exacerbated racial disparities in education. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, public health guidance has reduced staff-to-student ratios for in-person services, educational settings have adapted to remote learning instruction preschool through postsecondary, and race-based opportunity gaps in education have been exacerbated. DEEL will revisit and adjust contracts, policies, and procedures related to the implementation and evaluation of FEPP Levy investments to reflect the new COVID reality.

This legislation does not amend the 2020 Adopted or 2021 Proposed Budget.

2. CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

Does this legislation create, fund, or amend a CIP Project? ☐ Yes ☒ No

3. SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Does this legislation amend the Adopted Budget? ☐ Yes ☒ No

Does the legislation have other financial impacts to The City of Seattle that are not reflected in the above, including direct or indirect, short-term or long-term costs?
No, this legislation does not change the amount of the 2020 adopted or 2021 proposed budgets.

Is there financial cost or other impacts of *not* implementing the legislation?
Failure to pass this legislation would limit DEEL's ability to use FEPP Levy resources to mitigate the impacts of COVID-19 on families and service providers. Specifically, DEEL

would be unable to: 1) Provide financial relief to Seattle Preschool Program families and service providers by amending tuition and payment rates; 2) Extend supports beyond two calendar years of enrollment for current Seattle Promise scholars requesting to enroll part-time or defer enrollment due to remote learning and other COVID-19 impacts.

4. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

a. **Does this legislation affect any departments besides the originating department?**
No.

b. **Is a public hearing required for this legislation?**
No.

c. **Does this legislation require landlords or sellers of real property to provide information regarding the property to a buyer or tenant?**
No.

d. **Is publication of notice with *The Daily Journal of Commerce* and/or *The Seattle Times* required for this legislation?**
No.

e. **Does this legislation affect a piece of property?**
No.

f. **Please describe any perceived implication for the principles of the Race and Social Justice Initiative. Does this legislation impact vulnerable or historically disadvantaged communities? What is the Language Access plan for any communications to the public?**

The goal of the FEPP Levy is to partner with families and communities to achieve educational equity, close opportunity gaps, and build a better economic future for Seattle students. This legislation will serve to advance this goal, and the overall outcome of the FEPP Levy that 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 achieve academically across the preschool to post-secondary continuum by modifying, expanding, and adding investments to address educational opportunity gaps exacerbated by COVID-19. DEEL will utilize translation, interpretation, and relationships with community-based partners to promote FEPP funded resources and services to heritage language speakers and immigrant/refugee communities.

g. **If this legislation includes a new initiative or a major programmatic expansion: What are the specific long-term and measurable goal(s) of the program? How will this legislation help achieve the program's desired goal(s).**

This legislation suspends the two-year enrollment limit for current Seattle Promise scholars—high school graduating class of 2019 and class of 2020—requesting to enroll part-time or defer enrollment due to remote learning and other COVID-19 impacts. This

modification does not change the stated goal or outcomes of Seattle Promise. This modification contributes to the outcome that “Seattle Promise scholars complete a certificate, credential, or degree or transfer” by extending Promise supports up to 90 attempted credits, and beyond the current two-year limit. With this amendment, DEEL believes more Promise scholars will complete a certificate, credential, or degree or transfer than if the existing policy were kept in place.

List attachments/exhibits below:

- Summary Attachment 1 – LOC Recommendation Letter



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