



## Board and Commission Council Committee Agenda Item Request

Name of Board or Commission: Early Childhood Council

Request Number: 20170208-6ci

Description of item: The Early Childhood Council recommends that the Austin City Council support and encourage the AISD Facilities Planning Committee to create recommendations for facilities and programs that support high quality pre-kindergarten education, including assuring that teachers and principals have expertise in early childhood and that facilities are designed to promote optimal social and intellectual development of young children.

Board or Commission Vote to refer item to Council: 8-0-1 with Member Porter abstaining

Date of Approval of Request: 02/08/2017

Attachments: ☒ Yes ☐ No

If yes, please list the attachments: ECC Recommendation 20170208-6i – Austin ISD Facilities Plan

Attest:

*Cynthia D. Gamez*

### MAYOR'S OFFICE USE ONLY

Council Committee Assigned:

- |  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Audit & Finance         | <input type="checkbox"/> Housing & Community Development          | <input type="checkbox"/> Planning & Neighborhood |
| <input type="checkbox"/> AE Utility Oversight    | <input type="checkbox"/> Mobility                                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Safety           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Economic Opportunity    | <input type="checkbox"/> Open Space, Environment & Sustainability | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Utilities        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Health & Human Services |   |  |

Recommend a Fiscal Analysis be completed?

Recommend a Legal Analysis be completed?

Notes:

Mayor Signature & Date:



**BOARD/COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION**

**Early Childhood Council**

**Recommendation Number: 20170208-6ci – Austin ISD Facilities Plan**

WHEREAS, The Early Childhood Council of the City of Austin is charged with making recommendations to the City Council that support optimal development of young children and their families, continued development of a system of high-quality early care and education, and cooperative arrangements to support quality early care and education; and

WHEREAS, Today's children are the workforce of the future for the City of Austin; and

WHEREAS, There is strong evidence that the preschool years are critically important for success in school, likelihood of graduating from high school, and being a productive citizen; and

WHEREAS, There is strong evidence that children who attend high quality pre-kindergarten programs are more likely to be ready for kindergarten than those who do not attend; and

WHEREAS, The educational opportunities provided by the Austin Independent School District are central to the health and welfare of the community; and

WHEREAS, The pre-kindergarten classes for three- and four-year-old children make important contributions to children's readiness to enter kindergarten; and

WHEREAS, The AISD Facilities Master Plan will have long-term effects on the types of educational experiences provided to students; and

WHEREAS, The current AISD Facilities Master Plan does not appear to be adequately informed about the unique needs of very young children and their families; and

WHEREAS, The current AISD Facilities Master Plan contains proposals to close two of the three current pre-kindergarten centers (that is, entire schools devoted to pre-kindergarten and/or kindergarten classes); and

WHEREAS, Data collected by AISD show that children who attend pre-kindergarten centers perform better on tests of school readiness than do those who attend pre-kindergarten classes in elementary schools

(<https://www.austinisd.org/sites/default/files/dre->

[reports/rb/13.55 RB a Prekindergarten Program Student Academic Performance 2013-2014.pdf](#) ; and,

WHEREAS, Pre-kindergarten centers are staffed by teachers, staff, and administrators with specific expertise in early childhood education;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Early Childhood Council recommends that the Austin City Council support and encourage the AISD Facilities Planning Committee to create recommendations for facilities and programs that support high quality pre-kindergarten education, including assuring that teachers and principals have expertise in early childhood and that facilities are designed to promote optimal social and intellectual development of young children.

Cc:

AISD Superintendent

AISD Facilities Planning Committee,

AISD School Board

Joint Subcommittee of City, AISD, County

Date of Approval: February 8, 2017

Record of the vote: Unanimous on an 8-0-1 vote, with Member Porter abstaining

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_

*Cynthia D. Gamzy*