



## EARLY CHILDHOOD COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION 20170913-6bi

Date: 9-13-17

Subject: Parent Support Specialist Program Funding

Motioned By: Larry Elsner

Seconded By: Aletha Huston

### **Recommendation**

*The Early Childhood Council recommends that City Council continue the current level of funding for the AISD Parent Support Specialists at Title I schools and explore ways of expanding support for parent support specialists in Title I schools in other school districts that serve Austin children.*

### **Description of Recommendation to Council**

*Current City of Austin funding for the Austin ISD Parent Support Specialist program in the amount of \$1,292,676 is set to expire in December 31, 2017. This is one-time funding that is included in the City of Austin 2016-2017 operating budget. This recommendation seeks to continue current level funding for the program in the City of Austin 2017-2018 operating budget currently under consideration. The recommendation also requests that City Council consider expansion of this program in other Title I school districts where Austin children are enrolled.*

### **Rationale:**

*Current Parent Support Specialist program staffing would be impacted in over 60 Title I schools in Austin if funding expires in December 2017. The Parent Support Specialist program helps navigate the Austin ISD system as well as other resources, forming a bridge between families and community systems. The PSS program follows a dual capacity framework to authentically engage parents and build their capacity and skills (based on their interests) to support and advocate on behalf of their child's education.*

### **Vote: 9-0-2**

For: Member Overton, Member Alvarez, Member Huston, Member Harrison, Member Paver, Member Semple, Member Elsner, Member Burson-Polston and Member Son

Against: None

Abstain: Member Porter and Member Garcia

Absent: Member Wren and Member Sanchez

Attest: *Cynthia D. Gamez, Austin Public Health Staff Liaison*