

AGENDA



Recommendation for Council Action

AUSTIN CITY COUNCIL
Regular Meeting: June 28, 2018

Item Number: **041**

Public Health

Authorize negotiation and execution of an interlocal agreement with Austin Independent School District for the provision of startup costs for three new Pre-Kindergarten classrooms to expand affordable childcare options for Austin residents, with a three-month term starting July 1, 2018, in an amount not to exceed \$48,000.

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| Lead Department | Austin Public Health. |
| Fiscal Note | Funding in the amount of \$48,000 is available in in the FY2017-2018 Austin Public Health Department’s Operating Budget. |
| For More Information | Stephanie Hayden, Director, 512-972-5010; Donna Sundstrom, Assistant Director 512-972-5038; Estella Kirscht, Agenda Coordinator 972-5039. |
| Council Committee, Boards and Commission Action | April 11, 2018 - The Early Childhood Council recommended council action on all items included in the High Quality Child Care and Pre-K 3 Report developed in response to Council Resolution 20170928-057. |

Additional Backup Information:

On September 28, 2017, Council approved Resolution No. 20170928-057 which directed the compilation of information related to community data, equity gaps, and potential policies and resources that could provide opportunities to expand existing affordable high-quality child care services and

access to Pre-Kindergarten (Pre-K). One of the twelve deliverables was to consider the availability of Pre-K programs and provide funding options for the start-up costs to expand Pre-K for 3-year olds (Pre-K 3) programs in the AISD and surrounding school districts that enroll Austin children. Approval of this item will expand affordable childcare options for Austin residents.

As part of the efforts to respond to Resolution No. 20170928-057, the City's Austin Public Health Department and community work group members worked with school districts that served Austin children to determine current Pre-K services and gauge capacity for potential expansion opportunities for Pre-K 3. In AISD, 66 of the 84 elementary schools have full-day Pre-K for 4 year olds. Of those, 31 also offer Pre-K 3. There were 1,021 students enrolled in Pre-K 3 in AISD in January 2018. There are 17 AISD elementary schools that do not offer Pre-K. This agreement would allow the expansion for three more Pre-K classrooms. Each investment of \$16,000 covers the start-up costs for a new Pre-K classroom. Once start-up costs are covered, AISD is able to cover the cost of the teacher by drawing down Average Daily Attendance funding from the state. Each new classroom is able to serve 32 children that includes 16 in the morning and 16 in the afternoon. Each student enables school districts to draw down \$3,500, for a total potential of \$112,000 in state leveraged funds per classroom.

Investing in Pre-K 3 is aligned with the 2015-2018 School Readiness Action Plan for Austin/Travis County, which includes the following strategies for Early Childhood Education related to Pre-K:

- Increase the number of eligible three-year-old children enrolled in Public Pre-K in Travis County school districts and other high-quality early education settings.
- Increase the percentage of eligible four-year-old children enrolled in full-day Public Pre-K in Travis County school districts.

According to the Texas Education Agency Pre-K Partnership Implementation Guide, "it is estimated that only 5 out of 10 children enter Texas kindergarten classrooms ready to learn and be successful in school. Therefore, half of our youngest learners may not have the ability to follow routines or multistep directions, sustain attention to a task, hold a book, identify letters and sounds, sequence ideas, take turns or sit up during circle time. Pre-kindergarten programs are vital for developing these skills and more." Additionally, E3 Alliance found that "Central Texas students who participated in public school Pre-K or high-quality child care prior to school entry were much more likely to be prepared for kindergarten success".