



## Recommendation for Action

**File #:** 19-1460, **Agenda Item #:** 16.

4/25/2019

### **Posting Language**

Authorize negotiation and execution of an interlocal agreement with Del Valle Independent School District for the provision of startup costs for four new Pre-Kindergarten classrooms to expand affordable high-quality early childcare options for Austin/Travis County residents, with a five-month term, in an amount not to exceed \$64,000.

### **Lead Department**

Austin Public Health.

### **Fiscal Note**

Funding in the amount of \$64,000 is available in the Fiscal Year 2018-2019 Austin Public Health Department's Operating Budget.

### **For More Information:**

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### **Council Committee, Boards and Commission Action:**

April 11, 2018 - The Early Childhood Council recommended all items for Council Consideration developed by the Work Group responding to Council Resolution 20170928-057.

### **Additional Backup Information:**

On September 28, 2017, City 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-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 programs in the AISD and surrounding school districts that enroll Austin children.

As part of the efforts to respond to Resolution No. 20170928-057, Austin Public Health (APH) 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. Del Valle ISD currently only offers half-day Pre-K services to families. A half-day Pre-K program is a hardship for many working parents who need a full-day program. This agreement would allow Del Valle ISD to add four new full-day Pre-K classrooms for 4 year olds at Hillcrest Elementary School. Each investment of \$16,000 covers the start-up costs for a new Pre-K classroom. Once start-up costs are covered, Del Valle ISD is able to cover the cost of the teacher by drawing down Average Daily Attendance (also known as ADA) funding from the state. Each new classroom is able to serve up to 18 children. The school district will draw down \$3,500 for each student served in the new classrooms.

Investing in Pre-K is aligned with the community's Success By 6 School Readiness Action Plan for Austin/Travis County (also known as SRAP) for 2019-2023, which further the Early Childhood Education strategy of increasing the number of eligible 3 and 4-year old children enrolled in public Pre-K in Travis County school districts and other high-quality early education settings.

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.’”