

Seattle Preschool Program

Mayor Ed Murray is proposing a four-year, \$58 million levy to fund a demonstration phase of the Seattle Preschool Program that will serve 2,000 children in 100 classrooms by 2018.

- The cost will be \$43.36 a year, or \$3.61 a month, to the average homeowner in Seattle.
- The plan is anchored in evidence-based practice, acknowledging that program quality is vital to success.
- The program will be provided through a mixed-delivery system, with classrooms offered by Seattle Public Schools and community providers.
- The program will be voluntary for providers and participants.
- The program will have the ultimate goal of serving all eligible and interested 4-year-olds and all 3-year olds from families making less than 300% of the federal poverty level in Seattle.
- Tuition will be free for children from families earning less than the 200% of the federal poverty level.
- Tuition will be on a sliding scale for families earning more than 200% of the federal poverty level with at least some level of subsidy for all families.
- The program establishes high standards for teacher education and training and fully supports teachers in attaining these standards through tuition assistance and embedded professional development.
- Staff compensation levels are designed to attract and retain well-prepared teachers and to provide fair compensation for a traditionally poorly compensated sector of our economy.
- The program creates a feedback loop to inform programmatic improvement through ongoing, independent evaluation.