

New Investments in Eliminating Education Disparities

Seattle has embarked on important initiatives to reduce education disparities among low-income and vulnerable populations in our city. Investments in Pre-K, K-12 education support, mentorship and counseling, and tuition assistance can make a real difference in starting school ready to learn, increasing graduation rates, and preparing for a successful career.

Education Advisory Group Recommendations

The Mayor convened a 2016 Education Summit to address disparities between white students and students of color. The following items are based on these recommendations, reflecting extensive community engagement. Totals below reflect ongoing investment levels for K-12 programs, after a lower investment in the first year to allow for ramping up programs and a one-time 13th Year program investment.



Promoting Family Engagement and Collaboration - \$1.9M

Investments would increase parents' ability to support their child's learning and educators' ability to engage parents.



Enhancing Before and After School Opportunities – \$38K

Increase wraparound programs outside of regular school hours including STEM opportunities and partnerships.



Expanding School-Based Mentoring - \$469K

Match a caring adult with every child who is struggling to keep up with school requirements.



Reducing Disproportionality in Discipline - \$1.1M

Provide students having issues in school with personalized case management, and train teachers and staff on how to reduce discipline disparities.



Increasing Innovation School Investments - \$3.2M

Expand the number of middle and high schools getting flexible funds—a model that asks the school to creatively meet the needs of their students.



Growing Summer Learning Programs - \$1.3M

Provide struggling students with additional time to catch up with peers, free and nutritious meals, and high quality enrichment experiences.



Adding Workplace-Based Learning Programs - \$1.1M

Foster post-secondary success and workplace preparedness by providing stipends for students to experience career opportunities.



Supporting Educator Workforce Diversity - \$456K

Create opportunities for more instructional assistants to earn teaching certificates, increasing diversity among the teaching corps.



Expanding Birth to 5 Year Investments - \$5.7 million

Build on existing Pre-K investments by expanding programs to care for and prepare children with social and academic skills, setting them up for academic success in school.



13th Year Investment - \$5M (one time investment)

Funding will help build an endowment to expand first year scholarship and tuition assistance at Seattle Colleges for graduates from select Seattle Public High Schools.

Preserving Seattle's Fresh Bucks and Expanding Food Access

Fresh Bucks is a popular program that allows shoppers who receive Basic Food assistance to double their money. When you spend \$10 with your Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) card at a Seattle Farmers Market or Farm Stand, you get \$10 in Fresh Bucks to purchase fresh fruits, vegetables, and edible plant starts. The goal of the current Fresh Bucks program is to support consumption of more fruits and vegetables by low-income recipients of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits.

The Mayor is proposing to *invest \$3.2 million annually* to support the current Fresh Bucks program and invest in expanded food access strategies. In order to preserve the current Fresh Bucks program, City funds are needed as the program is supported by federal grants that are not expected to be renewed by the Trump Administration. In addition, to address concerns about those who do not qualify for SNAP benefits and others who do not have access to healthy food, such as unauthorized/undocumented residents, additional investments will be made to expand food access programs.