

CITY OF SEATTLE

RESOLUTION _____

..title

A RESOLUTION adopting the Seattle Education Action Plan.

..body

WHEREAS, providing access to a quality education is a fundamental purpose of government,
enshrined in Washington State’s Constitution as the State’s paramount duty; and

WHEREAS, despite significant efforts to provide an equitable education system, there persists
an opportunity gap between white students and students of color, with Seattle Public
School District (“School District”) students of color meeting third grade reading
standards at a rate 31 percent lower than white students; and

WHEREAS, while the School District is directly responsible for serving our public school
students in our classrooms, the support and assistance of all community members is
needed to help children realize their full potential; and

WHEREAS, in 2016 over 2,000 community members in Seattle participated in conversations
about how to eliminate this opportunity gap, culminating in an Education Summit on
April 30, 2016; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Murray convened an Education Advisory Group to develop
recommendations for the City and the School District to more vigorously address this
persistent opportunity gap; and

WHEREAS, the Education Advisory Group delivered their recommendations to the Mayor on
November 17, 2016, with the goal of helping 70 percent of African American/Black
students and other students of color achieve success in college or a credential program, so
they can take advantage of the economic opportunities in our vibrant city; and

1 WHEREAS, the goal, implementation guidelines, recommendations, and priorities of the
2 Education Advisory Group were incorporated into the Seattle Education Action Plan,
3 setting out a vision for eliminating the opportunity gap by focusing new and existing
4 resources on effective approaches to improving academic results for all students; and

5 WHEREAS, the 2017 Adopted Budget included funding for initial investments in these
6 recommendations including expanding mentoring programs, creating a new innovation
7 high school investment, broadening culturally based summer learning opportunities,
8 investing in post-secondary access, expanding summer literacy for elementary students,
9 providing executive function training for middle schoolers, expanding a home visitation
10 program, and studying improvements in Family Child Care programs; and

11 WHEREAS, Mayor Murray has proposed further investments in birth-to-five, K-12 education,
12 post-secondary access, and food access programs using proceeds from a sweetened
13 beverage tax; and

14 WHEREAS, these proposed investments will be implemented using guidelines recommended by
15 the Education Advisory Group that will directly tie them to eliminating educational
16 disparities for African American/Black students and other students of color; ensure
17 ongoing authentic community, family, and student engagement; continue a whole-child
18 approach to support Seattle's children; and engage community-based and
19 cultural/language-based organizations to achieve improved outcomes for Seattle's
20 students; and

21 WHEREAS, the School District has signed a letter of intent to commit to sustaining and
22 strengthening an ongoing collaboration toward achieving the shared goal of eliminating
23 opportunity gaps for Seattle students; and

1 WHEREAS, a cross-sector partnership between the City, School District, business, philanthropy,
2 higher education, educators, students, parents, and community-based organizations is
3 proposed to be formed to facilitate implementation of the Education Advisory Group
4 recommendations; and

5 WHEREAS, the Families and Education Levy and the Seattle Preschool Program Levy both
6 expire in 2018, and the Seattle Department of Education and Early Learning will be
7 developing a proposal to renew those levies using the Seattle Education Action Plan as a
8 guide; and

9 WHEREAS, the purpose of the Education Action Plan is to guide City investments with respect
10 to eliminating the education opportunity gap in Seattle and making quality education
11 available to each and every student so that they can fully participate in the dynamism of
12 our wonderful city; NOW, THEREFORE,

13 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SEATTLE, THE**
14 **MAYOR CONCURRING, THAT:**

15 Section 1. The Seattle Education Action Plan (“Plan”), a copy of which is included as
16 Attachment A to this resolution, is adopted.

17 Section 2. The Plan lays out proposed funding levels as a guide, but the Mayor and City
18 Council will determine City funding allocated for Plan implementation through the annual
19 budget process.

20 Section 3. The City will continue to work collaboratively with the Seattle Public School
21 District to implement this Plan. District leadership and the Seattle Department of Education and
22 Early Learning will annually present to the City Council and the Seattle Public Schools Board of
23 Directors steps taken to implement this Plan.

1 Section 4. The Plan's Strategies and Actions will guide the City's development of
2 proposals to renew the Families and Education Levy and the Seattle Preschool Program Levy.

