

..Explanation

Mayor Ginther’s vision for Columbus, America’s Opportunity City, is to create access to a high-quality prekindergarten education for every 4-year-old. Addressing early childhood learning means bringing awareness and resources to a critical learning stage in childhood development. Children who come to school ready to learn are more likely to succeed academically and in life.

Children who participate in high-quality prekindergarten experiences significantly improve their early literacy, language, and math skills. Ample evidence shows that children who enter school unprepared fall farther and farther behind. Students who get a poor start in their earliest years are likely to struggle in high school and subsequently, fail to graduate.

The purpose of Early Start Columbus is to expand high-quality prekindergarten services through partnerships with Columbus City Schools and community-based providers. The providers partnering in the Early Start Columbus Program have all demonstrated their ability to provide a high-quality prekindergarten education. All partnering providers are rated at least three stars in the State’s Step Up To Quality rating and improvement system.

State law makes allowable the braiding of Ohio Department of Education Early Childhood Expansion funds with those of the Ohio Department of Jobs and Family Service Publicly Funded Childcare program. The 2021-2022 Early Start Columbus Program combines Office of Education funds with these funding streams to further extend the number of children served while using City funds more efficiently. This approach uses City funds as “last dollar” funding.

FISCAL IMPACT: This ordinance authorizes an expenditure of \$144,499.00 from the 2022 Office of Education’s General Fund operating budget.

..Title

To authorize and direct the Director of the Office of Education to enter into 2022 ESC summer programming contracts with high-quality prekindergarten organizations that provide high-quality educational services and to provide Summer Success programming to enhance kindergarten readiness of entering kindergarteners through supportive programming and materials; to authorize the expenditure of \$144,499.00 from the General Fund. (\$144,499.00)

..Body

WHEREAS, the Director of Education desires to enter into 2022 ESC summer programming contracts with high-quality prekindergarten organizations that provide high-quality educational services to Columbus children to prepare them for kindergarten and to enhance kindergarten readiness of entering kindergarteners through supportive summer programming and materials; and

WHEREAS, research shows that quality pre-kindergarten instruction provides meaningful value to children’s educational performance and preparation for school; and

WHEREAS, the goal is that all children in City of Columbus will be kindergarten ready; and

WHEREAS, funding was budgeted in the general fund within the Office of Education’s operating budget for this purpose; and

WHEREAS, it has become necessary in the usual daily operation of the Office of Education to authorize the Director to enter into summer programming contracts; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLUMBUS:

SECTION 1. That the Director of the Office of Education be and is hereby authorized to enter into ESC summer programming contracts with high-quality prekindergarten organizations that provide high-quality educational services in the amounts deemed necessary to continue to advance the Early Start Columbus initiative:

The Ohio State University, D.B.A. A. Sophie Rogers School for Early Learning at Weinland Park (SFC) - contract compliance # 31-6025986

SECTION 2. That this Council finds it is in the best interest of the City of Columbus to waive the competitive bidding provisions of the Columbus City Codes, Chapter 329, to enter into these contracts.

SECTION 3. That the expenditure of \$144,499.00 be and is hereby authorized as follows (**see attachment Ordinance 1323-2022**):

Dept/Div: 40-06 | **Obj Class:** 03 | **Main Account:** 63050 | **Fund:** 1000 | **Sub-fund:** 100010 | **Program:** ED001 | **Amount:** \$144,499.00

SECTION 4. That the City Auditor is authorized to make any accounting changes to revise the funding source for all contracts or contract modifications associated with this ordinance.

SECTION 5. That the funds necessary to carry out the purpose of this ordinance are hereby deemed appropriated, and the City Auditor shall establish such accounting codes as necessary.

SECTION 6. That this ordinance shall be effective at the earliest period allowed by law.