



Legislation Text

File #: 2148-2023, Version: 1

Mayor Ginther's vision for Columbus, America's Opportunity City, is that every child is ready for kindergarten. 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.

To make sure our children are ready for kindergarten, the Department of Education uses different tools and collaborates with certain organizations in the preparation of our children. Ready4Success (R4S), administered by the Crane Center for Early Childhood Research and Policy at the Ohio State University, uses a multi-pronged strategy to support providers in preparing children for Kindergarten success. The goal of the R4S initiative is to improve children's outcomes and kindergarten readiness. It does so by focusing on the instructional practices of pre-kindergarten teachers.

For the 2023-2024 academic year, the Crane Center staff will also develop and implement Read It Again (RIA), an evidence-based, low-cost instructional supplement designed to promote intentional teaching practices in early childhood education programs serving children from birth to age five. Developing, implementing, and offering RIA to all early childhood providers is aligned with, and is an early strategy of, the Future Ready By Five Strategic Plan driver one: providing development and education supports for all children.

Therefore, the Department of Education requests permission to contract for \$491,000.00 with the Crane Center for Early Childhood Research and Policy at the Ohio State University to provide this crucial work.

This contract is being awarded pursuant to Columbus City Code Section 329.30, which allows for the City to negotiate not-for-profit service contracts. The Department of Education chose the Crane Center for Early Childhood Research and Policy at The Ohio State University because there is no employee expertly positioned to do this work in the city. For the past five school years, the Office of Education has contracted and partnered with the Crane Center to expand the Early Start Columbus Program and we see that there is no other entity with the experience and expertise for the program.

FISCAL IMPACT: Funding for this contract (\$491,000.00) is available within the 2023 Office of Education General Fund budget.

To authorize the Director of the Office of Education to enter into a contract with the Crane Center for Early Childhood Research and Policy at The Ohio State University to implement Ready4Success, a screening and improvement strategy, and Read It Again, Read it Again - Math, and to provide mid-year student assessment; and to authorize the expenditure of \$491,000.00 from the General Fund. (\$491,000.00)

WHEREAS, Mayor Ginther's vision for Columbus, America's Opportunity City, is that every child is ready for kindergarten; and

WHEREAS, to make sure our children are ready for kindergarten, the Department of Education uses different tools and collaborates with certain organizations; and

WHEREAS, Ready4Success uses a multi-pronged strategy to support providers in preparing children for Kindergarten success; and

WHEREAS, Ready4Success improves children's outcomes by focusing on the instructional practices of teachers; and

WHEREAS, Read It Again and Read it Again Math are early strategy of the Future Ready By Five Strategic Plan; and

WHEREAS, a mid-year student assessment will help in identifying struggling students and provide to them specialized programming; and

WHEREAS, this contract is being awarded pursuant to City Code Chapter 329.30, which allows for the City to negotiate not-for-profit service contracts and there is no city employee expertly positioned to do this work within the city; and

WHEREAS, it has become necessary in the usual daily operation of the Office of Education to authorize the Director to enter into contract with the Crane Center for Early Childhood Research and Policy at The Ohio State University for the public health, safety, and welfare; **NOW, THEREFORE:**

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

SECTION 1. That the Director of the Department of Education is authorized to enter into a contract with the Crane Center for Early Childhood Research and Policy at the Ohio State University for the implementation of the Ready4Success and Read It Again programs.

SECTION 2. That the expenditure of \$491,000.00 or so much thereof as may be needed, is hereby authorized to be expended from the General Fund as follows:

Div.: 40-06 | **Fund:** 1000 | **SubFund:** 100010 | **Obj. Class:** 03 | **Main Acct:** 63050 | **Program:** ED001 | **Amount:** \$491,000.00

SECTION 3. 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 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 legislation.

SECTION 5. That this ordinance shall take effect and be in force from and after the earliest period allowed by law.