



Legislation Text

File #: 2402-2022, **Version:** 1

Mayor Ginther’s vision for Columbus, America’s Opportunity City, is to create access to a high-quality pre-kindergarten 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 pre-kindergarten 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 pre-kindergarten 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 pre-kindergarten 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 2022-2023 Early Start Columbus Program combines the Mayor’s 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 \$5,308,500.00 from the 2022 Mayor’s Office of Education’s general operating fund. A transfer of \$1,348,584.50 within the general fund is needed to align the contracts with the school year.

EMERGENCY DESIGNATION: Emergency designation is requested to ensure the contracts are enacted to meet the operational needs of the providers.

To authorize and direct the Executive Director of the Mayor’s Office of Education to enter into contracts with high-quality pre-kindergarten organizations to provide educational services; to waive the competitive bidding provisions of the Columbus City Codes; to authorize a transfer within the general fund; to authorize the expenditure of up to \$5,308,500.00 from the general fund; and to declare an emergency. (\$5,308,500.00)

WHEREAS, the Executive Director of the Mayor’s Office of Education desires to enter into contracts with various high-quality pre-kindergarten organizations to provide educational services and quality pre-kindergarten services to Columbus 4-year-olds to prepare them for kindergarten; 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, a transfer within the general fund is necessary to align the contracts with the school year; and

WHEREAS, an emergency exists in the usual daily operation of the Mayor’s Office of Education in that it is

immediately necessary to authorize the Director to enter into contracts to meet the operational needs of the Early Start Columbus providers, thereby preserving the public health, peace, property, safety and welfare; **Now, Therefore:**

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

SECTION 1. That the Executive Director of the Mayor's Office of Education be and is hereby authorized to enter into contracts with the following quality pre-kindergarten organizations, under the terms and conditions and in the amounts deemed necessary to advance the Early Start Columbus initiative. Contracts are being awarded to the below providers. These providers were selected due to their prior experience and success in providing the same services in the 2021-2022 school year:

- All Saints Academy - contract compliance # 31-4416400
- Child Development Council of Franklin County, Inc. - contract compliance # 311138997
- Childhood League, Inc. - contract compliance # 31-6400177
- Chosen Kids Learning Center - 2545 Petzinger Rd #G, J-K Columbus, OH 43209 - contract compliance # TBD
- Chosen Kids Learning Center - 3314 Noe Bixby Rd Columbus, OH 43232 - contract compliance # TBD
- Columbus City Schools - contract compliance # 316400416
- Columbus Early Learning Centers - contract compliance # 314379619
- Columbus Montessori Education Center - 979 South James Road, Columbus, Ohio 43227 - contract compliance TBD
- Connected Pathways Early Learning Centers, - contract compliance TBD
- Creative Child Care, Inc. - contract compliance # 31-0795403
- Eye to I Learning Ctr LLC D.B.A. Heavenly Kids Center for Learning - contract compliance # 421713021
- Future Scholars Learning Academy II - 6116 McNaughten Center Columbus, OH 43232 - contract compliance TBD
- Joyful Beginnings Children's Learning Academy - contract compliance # TBD
- The Haynes School, INC. D.B.A. Kiddie Academy - contract compliance # 451534885
- Little Disciples Learning Center - contract compliance # 26-0270662
- Little Miracles EDC 4445 Reinbeau Dr. Columbus, OH 43232 - contract compliance TBD
- Maize Manor Preschool - contract compliance # 31-6014976
- NCBC Human Service Corporation D.B.A. Kids Care Academy - contract compliance # 451534885
- Our Kidz Enrichment & Child Care Center - contract compliance # 45-2875180
- St. Mary Magdalene - contract compliance # TBD
- St. Stephen's Community House - contract compliance # 31-4379568
- Starting Point Learning Center - contract compliance # 20298639
- Vineyard Early Childhood Center, 6000 Cooper Rd Westerville, OH 43081- contract compliance TBD
- A Better Choice Daycare and Learning Center, 2960 E. Dublin Granville Rd. Columbus, OH 43231 - contract compliance TBD
- Kiddie Kare Servicing Imagine Schools, 2085 Venture Place Groveport, OH 43125 - contract compliance TBD
- Little Tigers Learning Center, 876 Freeway Dr. N, Columbus, OH 43229 - contract compliance TBD
- Agora's Little Gems Early Learning and Child Care Center, 400 West Broad Street Columbus, OH 43215 - contract compliance TBD
- Little Lions Learning Center, 2149 Cleveland Avenue Columbus, OH 43211 - contract compliance TBD
- Mary's Little Lamb Interactive Learning Academy, 1800 Parsons Avenue Columbus, OH 43207 - contract compliance TBD
- Prewitt's Playhouse Early Learning Center, 1860 Lockbourne Rd. Columbus, OH 43207 - contract compliance TBD

SECTION 2. That the 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 award these contracts.

SECTION 3. That the transfer of \$1,348,584.50 is authorized within the general fund from the Citywide account to the Office of Education, according to the accounting codes in the attachment to this ordinance.

SECTION 4. That the expenditure of \$5,308,500.00 be and is hereby authorized as follows (**see attachment Ordinance**

2402-2022 Legislation Template):

Dept/Div: 40-06 | **Obj Class:** 03 | **Main Account:** 63050 | **Fund:** 1000 | **Sub-fund:** 100010 | **Program:** ED001 | **Amount**
: \$5,308,500.00

SECTION 5. 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 6. 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 7. That for the reasons stated in the preamble hereto, which is hereby made a part hereof, this ordinance is hereby declared to be an emergency measure and shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage and approval by the Mayor, or 10 days after passage if the Mayor neither approves nor vetoes the same.