



Legislation Text

File #: 2817-2015, **Version:** 1

Ordinance 1393-2015 granted the department the authority to enter into contract with vendors for Early Start Columbus for the 2015 school year. The purpose of Early Start Columbus is to expand high-quality pre-kindergarten services for four-year-olds living in the City of Columbus.

The Mayor and the Commission believe that an investment in early childhood education will prevent achievement gaps, reduce the need for special education, increase the likelihood of healthier lifestyles, lower the crime rate, and reduce overall social costs. By expanding pre-kindergarten services, Columbus children will not only improve readiness for kindergarten but will be able to accelerate learning and academic performance beyond kindergarten. Early Start Columbus focuses on all-day, year-round services with curriculum aligned with the Department of Jobs and Family Services and Ohio Department of Education early learning standards.

Through a grant process that included community meetings with vendors, hearings, and an application process, providers were funded for services. The department has been able to perform a census of those programs, and it is now necessary to align funding with the observed number of slots that vendors have been able to fill.

The attached spreadsheet (Early Start I.xlsx) lists the contracts that will be modified for the associated vendors. These contract modifications will allow the department to serve additional children with other providers through the second iteration of the 2015 program, Early Start II.

Emergency Justification: Emergency action is requested in order to immediately have funding in place for the Early Start II program.

To authorize the Director of Education to modify contracts with the 2015-2016 Early Start Columbus providers that will align service levels with surveyed provider capacity; and to declare an emergency.

WHEREAS, the Director of the Department of Education desires to modify 2015-2016 Early Start Columbus contracts; and

WHEREAS, this modification will allow service levels with surveyed provider capacity; and

WHEREAS, no additional funds are needed to modify this agreement; and

WHEREAS, an emergency exists in the usual daily operation of the Department of Education in that it is immediately necessary to modify the agreement with Early Start Columbus providers so program activities can be continued without further delay, all for the immediate preservation of 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 Director of the Department of Education is hereby authorized to modify contracts previously authorized under ordinance 1393-2015 by aligning those contracts with the surveyed service level.

SECTION 2. That this modification is made pursuant to Chapter 329 of the Columbus City Code.

SECTION 3. 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 passage and approval by the Mayor, or ten days after passage if the Mayor neither approves nor vetoes the same.