



## Legislation Text

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**File #:** 0878-2020, **Version:** 1

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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 2019-2020 Early Start Columbus Program combines Education Department 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.

Due to COVID-19, all early learning facilities in Ohio, other than temporary pandemic centers, were ordered closed by the Governor. The Mayor's Office has determined that it is necessary to continue funding for these providers and to make the final payment despite the closures. The amount due to the providers will be based on their previous performance under the terms of the agreement. If any of the facilities open prior to June 1, 2020, the terms and conditions contained in the agreement will be in full force and effect.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** This ordinance authorizes an expenditure of \$1,692,485.00 from the 2020 Department of Education's General Fund operating budget.

**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 Director of the Department of Education to enter into renewal contracts with high-quality prekindergarten organizations that provide educational services; to waive the competitive bidding provisions of the Columbus City Codes; to authorize the expenditure of up to \$1,692,485.00 from the General Fund; and to declare an emergency. (\$1,692,485.00)

**WHEREAS**, the Director of Education desires to enter into renewal contracts with various high-quality prekindergarten organizations that provide educational services and quality prekindergarten 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**, funding was budgeted in the general fund within the Department of Education's operating budget for this purpose; and

**WHEREAS**, an emergency exists in the usual daily operation of the Department of Education in that it is immediately necessary to authorize the Director to enter into renewal contracts to meet the operational needs of the providers during the COVID-19 pandemic, all for the preservation of public health, peace, property, and safety; now, therefore:

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

**SECTION 1.** That the Director of the Department of Education be and is hereby authorized to enter into renewal contracts with the following quality pre-kindergarten organizations in the amounts deemed necessary to continue to advance the Early Start Columbus initiative:

A. Sophie Rogers School for Early Learning at Weinland Park (SFC) - contract compliance # 31-6025986  
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 - contract compliance # 81-3653355  
Chosen Kids Learning Center - contract compliance # 35-2489943  
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, 4242 Stelzer Rd. Columbus OH, 43230 - contract compliance TBD  
Creative Child Care, Inc. - contract compliance # 31-0795403  
Gladden Community House - contract compliance # 401269  
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  
Hilltop Preschool - contract compliance # 460759007  
Joyful Beginnings Children's Learning Academy - contract compliance # TBD  
Kiddie Academy of Reynoldsburg - contract compliance # 451534885  
Little Disciples Learning Center - contract compliance # 26-0270662  
Little Gems Learning Place - 2030 Leonard Avenue Columbus, OH 43219 - contract compliance TBD  
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  
Prewitt's Playhouse Early Learning Center - 1860 Lockbourne Road Columbus, OH 43207 - contract compliance TBD  
South Side Learning & Development Center - contract compliance #314379811  
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  
YMCA of Central Ohio - contract compliance # 314379594

**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 \$1,692,485.00 be and is hereby authorized as follows (**see attachment Ordinance 0493-2019**):

**Dept/Div:** 42-01 | **Obj Class:** 03 | **Main Account:** 63050 | **Fund:** 1000 | **Sub-fund:** 100010 | **Program:** ED001 |  
**Amount:** \$1,692,485.00

**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 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.