



## Legislation Text

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**File #:** 1535-2023, **Version:** 1

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Mayor Ginther's vision for Columbus, America's Opportunity City, is that every child is ready for kindergarten. Kindergarten readiness is a multidimensional construct reflecting young children's preparedness for instruction in areas related to both academic and social-emotional skills. Children who arrive to kindergarten with limited readiness in one or more of these areas face challenges in the transition into the kindergarten setting, and are susceptible to academic achievement over time.

Participation in quality early childhood education can provide an important mechanism for developing children's school readiness; likewise, certain intentional parenting practices, such as shared book-reading and numeracy discussions, also can support school readiness. However, not all children have access to quality early learning programs and/or intentional parenting practices.

Because of this, the Mayor's Office of Education is requesting the authority to partner with Columbus Early Learning Centers (CELC) on the Summer Success Program at the Hilltop Early Learning Center (SSHELC), a four-week intensive summer readiness 'camp' for children without prior Early Childhood Education experience and those who may not have sufficient supports at home for developing key readiness skills. In addition, funding will be provided through this ordinance for important teacher and student recruitment activities for the 2023-2024 school year. Summer readiness camp to begin June 1, 2023.

Therefore, the Office of Education requests permission to contract with CELC to provide this crucial work.

This contract is being awarded pursuant to City Code Chapter 329, which allows for the City to negotiate not-for-profit service contracts. This organization was selected due to their existing contract with the City to serve as the Master Operator of the Hilltop Early Learning Center and their success in providing high quality early learning experiences.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** Funding for this contract (\$345,000.00) is available within the 2023 Office of Education General Fund budget.

**EMERGENCY DESIGNATION:** Emergency designation is requested to ensure that programming can begin June 1, 2023.

To authorize the Executive Director of the Office of Education to enter into a contract with Columbus Early Learning Centers to plan and implement the 2023 Summer Success Program at the Hilltop early Learning Center, a four-week intensive summer readiness 'camp' for children without prior early childhood education experience needed for the achievement of the Mayor's goal that every child is ready for kindergarten; to authorize the expenditure of \$345,000.00 from the General Fund; and to declare an emergency. (\$345,000.00)

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

**WHEREAS,** participation in quality early childhood education can provide an important mechanism for developing children's school readiness; and

**WHEREAS,** not all children have access to quality early childhood education and/or intentional parenting practices; and

**WHEREAS**, the Summer Success program assists children that have not participated in early childhood education and may not have developed key readiness skills; and

**WHEREAS**, the Office of Education and Columbus Early Learning Centers seek to plan and implement the Summer Success Program at the Hilltop Early Learning Center to assist more children; and

**WHEREAS**, this contract is being awarded pursuant to City Code Chapter 329, which allows for the City to negotiate not-for-profit service contracts; and

**WHEREAS**, funding was budgeted in the General Fund within the Office of Education's operating budget for this purpose; and

**WHEREAS**, an emergency exists in the usual daily operation of the Office of Education in that it is immediately necessary to authorize the Executive Director to enter into contract with the Columbus Early Learning Centers to allow programming to commence at the beginning of summer, 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 Executive Director of the Office of Education is authorized to enter into a contract with the Columbus Early Learning Centers for the planning and implementation of the Summer Success Program at the Hilltop Early Learning Center.

**SECTION 2.** That the expenditure of \$345,000.00 or so much thereof as may be needed, is hereby authorized to be expended from the General Fund as follows: **(See attachment EXP)**

**Div.:** 40-06 | **Fund:** 1000 | **SubFund:** 100010 | **Obj. Class:** 03 | **Main Acct:** 63050 | **Program:** ED001 | **Amount:** \$354,000.00

**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 for 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