



Recommendation for Action

File #: 19-1106, **Agenda Item #:** 17.

2/21/2019

Posting Language

Authorize negotiation and execution of an interlocal agreement with Manor Independent School District for the provision of startup costs for four new Pre-Kindergarten classrooms to expand affordable childcare options for Austin/Travis County residents, with a seven-month term, in an amount not to exceed \$64,000.

Lead Department

Austin Public Health.

Fiscal Note

Funding in the amount of \$64,000 is available in the Fiscal Year 2018-2019 Austin Public Health Department's Operating Budget.

For More Information:

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Council Committee, Boards and Commission Action:

April 11, 2018 - The Early Childhood Council recommended all items related to one-time startup costs for new Pre-K 3 classrooms for Council Consideration developed by the Work Group responding to Council Resolution 20170928-057.

Additional Backup Information:

On September 28, 2017, City Council approved Resolution No. 20170928-057, which directed the compilation of information related to community data, equity gaps, and potential policies and resources that could provide opportunities to expand existing affordable high quality child care services and access to Pre-K. One of the twelve deliverables was to consider the availability of Pre-K programs and provide funding options for the start-up costs to expand Pre-K programs in the AISD and surrounding school districts that enroll Austin children.

As part of the efforts to respond to the Resolution, Austin Public Health (APH) and community work group members worked with school districts that served Austin children to determine current Pre-K services and gauge capacity for potential expansion opportunities for Pre-K for 3-year olds (Pre-K 3). APH found that the availability of Pre-K 3 was very limited in Manor ISD with only 68 children being served in the district's half-day Pre-K 3 program and 17 Pre-K 3 children served in community child care centers through partnerships with the district. The investment of \$16,000 covers the start-up costs for one new Pre-K classroom. Once start-up costs are provided, Manor ISD is able to cover the cost of the teacher by drawing down Average Daily Attendance (ADA) funding from the State. Each new classroom is able to serve up to 32 children; that includes 16 in the morning and 16 in the afternoon. Each student enables school districts to draw down \$3,500, for a total potential of \$112,000 in state leveraged funds per classroom.

Investing in Pre-K 3 is aligned with the community's Success By 6 School Readiness Action Plan for Austin/Travis County for 2019-2023, which furthers the Early Childhood Education strategy related to increasing the number of eligible 3 and 4-year old children enrolled in Public Pre-K in Travis County school districts and other high quality early education settings.

According to the Texas Education Agency Pre-K Partnership Implementation Guide, “it is estimated that only 5 out of 10 children enter Texas kindergarten classrooms ready to learn and be successful in school. Therefore, half of our youngest learners may not have the ability to follow routines or multistep directions, sustain attention to a task, hold a book, identify letters and sounds, sequence ideas, take turns or sit up during circle time. Pre-kindergarten programs are vital for developing these skills and more.” Additionally, “E3 Alliance found that, ‘Central Texas students who participated in public school Pre-K or high-quality child care prior to school entry were much more likely to be prepared for kindergarten success.’”

Approval of this item will authorize the negotiation and execution of an agreement for a 7-month term from March 1, 2019 through September 30, 2019.