



## **What is the Families, Education, Preschool and Promise (FEPP) levy?**

The Families, Education, Preschool and Promise levy is a more comprehensive approach to addressing the opportunity gap that many of Seattle children face, particularly those from low income and minority families. It funds a range of proven programs that cover children from preschool through college: it replaces and enhances the expiring Preschool Levy, which funds subsidized high-quality preschool, replaces the expiring Families and Education levy, which funds proven K-12 support programs, and provides funding for the Seattle Promise scholarship program that will expand access to community college for all Seattle public high school grads.

## **How much will the FEPP levy cost me?**

Because the seven-year FEPP levy will replace and enhance two expiring levies – the Families and Education levy and the Seattle Preschool Program levy – with one combined levy, the actual increase for the typical Seattle homeowner will be modest. That homeowner is currently paying about \$136 this year for the two expiring levies. Under the new levy that homeowner will pay about \$248 a year, an increase of \$112 annually or about \$9 a month.

## **What are we getting for that additional funding?**

The benefits of the new, more comprehensive FEPP levy are substantial. They include a significant expansion of Seattle's quality, subsidized preschool program from 1,500 kids per year to 2,500 kids. The levy also funds the Seattle Promise, which for the first time will offer every Seattle public high school graduate two free years of community college. The levy will also maintain the proven academic and social support program funded by the expiring Families and Education levy, and will fund additional student health centers in Seattle's K-12 public schools.

## **How was the FEPP plan put together?**

The plan for the FEPP levy was developed over an intensive process that involved evaluating the performance of existing programs as well as extensive community and stakeholder outreach. Between November 2017 and February 2018 the Seattle Department of Education and Early Learning held 33 engagement meetings with nearly 500 attendees citywide. Based on that process, the levy development team focused on several key areas, including: closing opportunity gaps, expanding high quality early learning, increased learning opportunities, better systems coordination, and proven wraparound services for Seattle schoolkids.

## **Why should the City be investing in expanding high quality subsidized preschool?**

Studies have shown that quality preschool helps children throughout their lives by shaping their ability to learn. The FEPP levy expands Seattle's quality subsidized preschool program from 1,500 children currently to 2,500 kids. By providing preschool, and not just daycare to children who otherwise would likely not be able to afford it, we can help give every child the chance to succeed. And these investments are cost effective as well – studies have shown that for every \$1 spent on preschool, there is an estimated \$8 return on investment.

## **What programs does the levy fund in our K-12 schools?**

The FEPP levy funds proven programs that are designed to help kids in our public schools to succeed, including academic and wraparound support services, college and career readiness work, year-round learning systems at the highest-needs middle schools in Seattle, which include after-school programs, winter & spring break camps, and summer learning programs. The levy also makes targeted investments in the high schools that are more likely to serve opportunity gap students and students entering the 9th grade not meeting both reading and math standards. These K-12 investments are intended to build economic opportunity for all young people in Seattle by closing the opportunity gap and creating pathways to good-paying jobs.

## **What have been the results from previous levies?**

The City has a track record of success in providing access to quality early learning to children from low- to middle-income families through the Families and Education Levy and through the Seattle Preschool pilot program that was established by voters in 2014. The current Families and Education Levy will serve over 10,000 students at 42 schools across Seattle in 2017-18.

Additionally, more than 2,500 students received additional summer instruction in 2017, nearly 8,000 students received preventative and primary health services through school-based health programs. All told, over half of Seattle Public Schools students attend schools that are supported by Levy funding.

Levy investments have made progress in reducing academic achievement and opportunity gaps. All levy-funded high schools have reduced the gap between attendance rates of white students and students of color as well as the rate of passing core courses. In middle school, levy investments are improving the outcomes for the most struggling students. An analysis of academic performance at Innovation Middle Schools showed levy investments are helping to increase the number of levy-focus students that are meeting grade-level standards in math.

Outcomes from Seattle quality subsidized preschool program in the 2016-17 school year showed gains in vocabulary, literacy, and math for children and a marked improvement in instructional quality to complement its strong performance in providing emotionally-supportive environments and developmentally-appropriate experiences for young children. The new levy

will expand this promising program from the current 1500 students enrolled in 77 classrooms to 2,500 student slots over the next seven years.

### **Why does the City need to invest in Seattle schools after the State settled the funding issues raised by the Supreme Court?**

The Washington State Supreme Court has held that the state is responsible for fully funding K-12 basic education. We know, however, that our students need additional support – that is why the FEPP levy provides supplemental services for specific groups of at-risk students, including in-school resources and programming beyond the traditional school day.

Levy-funded efforts will also arm Seattle public school students with the skills they need to take advantage of Seattle’s booming economy, including providing supplemental services that support college and career readiness and reduce barriers to student learning through health clinics and wraparound services.

### **What accountability measures are in the levies to ensure money is spent where it is supposed to be?**

As with the 2011 Families and Education Levy and the 2014 Seattle Preschool Levy, a Levy Oversight Committee will monitor progress and review DEEL investments and results annually. The Oversight Committee assists with data sharing between the City and Seattle public schools and ensures a strong accountability structure based on setting robust targets and monitoring outcomes and indicators to allow for course corrections to improve results. In addition, new FEPP levy is committed to a continuous improvement cycle--analyzing results and administering course corrections to ensure improved outcomes for Seattle's students. The Seattle Preschool Program contracts with external evaluators to assess program quality and areas for improvement yearly.

### **Who is eligible for Seattle Promise and where can students go to college?**

All students graduating from Seattle’s public high schools will be eligible for the Seattle Promise program. The program will provide free tuition and other educational supports if they attend any Seattle community college.