


COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

	Number:	24-298	Meeting:	July 15, 2024
	Agenda Item:	42	Roll Call:	24-0969
	Submitted by:	Scott E. Sanders, City Manager		

AGENDA HEADING:

Approving termination of agreement with Des Moines Public Schools (DMPS) for preschool partner scholarships and amending agreement with DMPS for expanded in-district preschool classrooms.

SYNOPSIS:

Recommend approval of termination of agreement with DMPS for preschool partner scholarships and approve amendments to agreement with DMPS for expanded in-district classrooms.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Amount: \$200,000 of initial \$600,000 allocation to be retained by the City

Funding Source: American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funding

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- In 2023, the City of Des Moines (City) and DMPS entered into two (2) separate ARPA funding agreements to expand the availability of affordable preschool education in Des Moines.
- One (1) agreement allocated \$3.3 million in funding for DMPS to establish six (6) new full-day preschool classrooms across the district, creating 120 new preschool slots. This funding has been, and continue to be, distributed over three (3) years in increments of \$1.3 million, \$1 million and \$1 million.
- A second agreement allocated \$600,000 to DMPS for the purpose of \$1,000 per pupil scholarships for full-day classes and wrap around care with DMPS preschool partners for families earning at or below 300% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL). These funds were to be distributed in up to \$200,000 increments over three (3) years, based on preschool partner enrollment of students who met the guidelines. After a one (1)-year pilot, this program was not as effective as the in-district classroom model.
- Termination of the preschool partner scholarship program and amending the original agreement for in-district classrooms with DMPS to reallocate unused preschool partner scholarships is recommended.

- Of the \$492,000 unspent funds within the preschool partnership program allocation, the remaining \$92,000 from the first installment and the \$200,000 from the second installment will be disbursed to DMPS for the establishment of two (2) additional full-day classrooms at Garton Elementary and Madison Elementary. These locations were chosen based on the need for full-day preschool in the surrounding area.
- The remaining \$200,000 for Fiscal Year (FY) 2025-2026 from the preschool partner scholarship program will be retained by the City.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S):

Date: February 20, 2023

Roll Call Number: [23-0235](#)

Action: [ARPA](#) funding agreement with DMPS for expanded preschool and associated wrap around care, \$600,000. ([Council Communication No. 23-088](#)) Moved by Gatto to adopt. Second by Voss. Motion Carried 7-0.

Date: February 20, 2023

Roll Call Number: [23-0234](#)

Action: [ARPA](#) funding agreement with DMPS for expanded preschool services for six additional classrooms, \$3,300,000. ([Council Communication No. 23-087](#)) Moved by Gatto to adopt. Second by Voss. Motion Carried 7-0.

BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S): NONE**ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS: NONE**

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