



SEATTLE CITY COUNCIL

Legislative Summary

CB 119258

Record No.: CB 119258

Type: Ordinance (Ord)

Status: Passed

Version: 2

Ord. no: Ord 125604

In Control: City Clerk

File Created: 04/17/2018

Final Action: 06/27/2018

Title: AN ORDINANCE relating to regular property taxes; providing for the submission to the qualified electors of the City at an election to be held on November 6, 2018, a proposition to lift the limit on regular property taxes under chapter 84.55 RCW and authorize the City to levy additional taxes for up to seven years for the purpose of providing education services designed to improve access to early learning and high-quality preschool, K-12 school and community-based investments, K-12 school health, and post-secondary and job readiness opportunities for Seattle students; implementing exemptions for low income seniors, disabled veterans, and other people who are disabled as defined in RCW 84.36.381; authorizing a creation of a designated fund; directing the application of levy proceeds; establishing eligibility requirements for partners; establishing accountability and reporting structures; providing for the facilitation of communication between the City and stakeholders; providing for partnership agreements with Seattle School District and Seattle Colleges District; requiring a forthcoming Implementation and Evaluation Plan; proposing a ballot title; and authorizing the implementation of agreements for this levy lid lift which will be commonly known as the Families, Education, Preschool, and Promise Levy.

Date

Notes:

Filed with City Clerk:

Mayor's Signature:

Sponsors: González, Johnson

Vetoed by Mayor:

Veto Overridden:

Veto Sustained:

Attachments:

Drafter: adam.schaefer@seattle.gov

Filing Requirements/Dept Action:

History of Legislative File

Legal Notice Published:

Yes

No

Version:	Acting Body:	Date:	Action:	Sent To:	Due Date:	Return Date:	Result:

1	Mayor	04/23/2018	Mayor's leg transmitted to Council	City Clerk	
	Action Text:		The Council Bill (CB) was Mayor's leg transmitted to Council. to the City Clerk		
	Notes:				
1	City Clerk	04/24/2018	sent for review	Council President's Office	
	Action Text:		The Council Bill (CB) was sent for review. to the Council President's Office		
	Notes:				
1	Council President's Office	05/11/2018	sent for review	Select Committee on Families, Education, Pre-School, and Promise Levy	
	Action Text:		The Council Bill (CB) was sent for review. to the Select Committee on Families, Education, Pre-School, and Promise Levy		
	Notes:				
1	City Council	05/21/2018	referred	Select Committee on Families, Education, Pre-School, and Promise Levy	
	Action Text:		The Council Bill (CB) was referred. to the Select Committee on Families, Education, Pre-School, and Promise Levy		
	Notes:				
1	Select Committee on Families, Education, Pre-School, and Promise Levy	06/11/2018	pass as amended		Pass
	Action Text:		The Committee recommends that City Council pass as amended the Council Bill (CB). In Favor: 5 Chair González , Chair Johnson, Member Harrell, Member Herbold, Member O'Brien Opposed: 0 Absent(NV): 1 Member Juarez		
2	City Council	06/18/2018	passed		Pass
	Action Text:		The Council Bill (CB) was passed by the following vote, and the President signed the Bill: In Favor: 9 Councilmember Bagshaw, Councilmember González , Council President Harrell, Councilmember Herbold, Councilmember Johnson, Councilmember Juarez, Councilmember Mosqueda, Councilmember O'Brien, Councilmember Sawant Opposed: 0		
2	City Clerk	06/20/2018	submitted for Mayor's signature	Mayor	
2	Mayor	06/27/2018	Signed		
	Action Text:		The Council Bill (CB) was Signed.		
	Notes:				
2	Mayor	06/27/2018	returned	City Clerk	
	Action Text:		The Council Bill (CB) was returned. to the City Clerk		
	Notes:				
2	City Clerk	06/27/2018	attested by City Clerk		
	Action Text:		The Ordinance (Ord) was attested by City Clerk.		

CITY OF SEATTLE

ORDINANCE 125604

COUNCIL BILL 119258

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9 AN ORDINANCE relating to regular property taxes; providing for the submission to the
10 qualified electors of the City at an election to be held on November 6, 2018, a proposition
11 to lift the limit on regular property taxes under chapter 84.55 RCW and authorize the City
12 to levy additional taxes for up to seven years for the purpose of providing education
13 services designed to improve access to early learning and high-quality preschool, K-12
14 school and community-based investments, K-12 school health, and post-secondary and
15 job readiness opportunities for Seattle students; implementing exemptions for low income
16 seniors, disabled veterans, and other people who are disabled as defined in RCW
17 84.36.381; authorizing a creation of a designated fund; directing the application of levy
18 proceeds; establishing eligibility requirements for partners; establishing accountability
19 and reporting structures; providing for the facilitation of communication between the City
20 and stakeholders; providing for partnership agreements with Seattle School District and
21 Seattle Colleges District; requiring a forthcoming Implementation and Evaluation Plan;
22 proposing a ballot title; and authorizing the implementation of agreements for this levy
23 lid lift which will be commonly known as the Families, Education, Preschool, and
24 Promise Levy.

25
26 WHEREAS, we as a community must address the crisis of affordability in Seattle by creating
27 real and equitable economic opportunity for students across the City; and

28 WHEREAS, to maintain its competitiveness, retain existing employers, and attract new
29 economically-sustainable industries and family-wage jobs, Seattle needs to provide a
30 well-educated, well-trained workforce with the advanced skills and abilities needed to
31 compete in the 21st century; and

32 WHEREAS, in an increasingly competitive global economy many Seattle area employers require
33 applicants to have a high school diploma and a college degree; and

34 WHEREAS, the Seattle Department of Education and Early Learning (DEEL) currently
35 administers the Families and Education and Seattle Preschool Program Levies, and DEEL
36 is responsible for developing the City's education policy and investment strategy for levy

1 funds to help children succeed in school through increased access to high-quality
2 programs supporting academic achievement; and

3 WHEREAS, Seattle voters approved a seven-year property tax lid lift known as the Families and
4 Education Levy (FEL Levy) in 1990, 1997, 2004, and 2011; and

5 WHEREAS, in 2011, 64 percent of Seattle voters approved a \$232 million, seven-year renewal
6 of the FEL Levy to improve academic achievement; and

7 WHEREAS, in 2014, 69 percent of Seattle voters approved a \$58 million, four-year Seattle
8 Preschool Program Levy (SPP Levy) to provide Seattle children with accessible high-
9 quality preschool services designed to improve their readiness for school and to support
10 their subsequent academic achievement; and

11 WHEREAS, in 2016, over 2,000 community members in Seattle participated in conversations
12 about how to eliminate the opportunity gap in education, culminating in an Education
13 Summit on April 30, 2016; and

14 WHEREAS, in 2016, an Education Advisory Group developed recommendations for the City
15 and the Seattle School District to more vigorously address the persistent opportunity gap
16 in education; and

17 WHEREAS, the Education Advisory Group established the goal of helping 70 percent of African
18 American/Black students and other students of color achieve success in college or a
19 credential program and take advantage of the economic opportunities in Seattle; and

20 WHEREAS, the goal, implementation guidelines, recommendations, and priorities of the
21 Education Advisory Group were incorporated into the Seattle Education Action Plan
22 (EAP) and set out a vision for eliminating the opportunity gap in education by focusing

1 new and existing resources on effective approaches to improving academic results for all
2 students; and

3 WHEREAS, the purpose of the EAP is to guide City investments with respect to eliminating the
4 education opportunity gap in Seattle and making quality education supports available to
5 Seattle students; and

6 WHEREAS, on June 26, 2017, the City Council passed Resolution 31748, which adopted the
7 EAP and affirmed that the City will continue to work collaboratively with the Seattle
8 School District and that the EAP recommendations and strategies will help inform the
9 City's development of proposals to renew the FEL and SPP Levies; and

10 WHEREAS, beginning in October 2017, more than 465 community members representing over
11 105 different organizations in Seattle have identified and prioritized funding investments
12 to renew the FEL and SPP Levies; and

13 WHEREAS, the above meetings included community-based organizations, the Seattle School
14 Board, educators, parents, families, and students; and

15 WHEREAS, during these conversations several community priorities emerged including: access
16 to mental health support; social and emotional support; healthcare; before- and after-
17 school activities; transportation; the Seattle Preschool Program; and the need for
18 continued work to close the opportunity gap in education; and

19 WHEREAS, the Families and Education and Seattle Preschool Program Levy Oversight
20 Committee provided feedback and direction to DEEL on the goals, investment areas, and
21 implementation principles and priorities to renew the FEL and SPP Levies; and

22 WHEREAS, on March 7, 2018, Seattle Colleges, Seattle School District and the City of
23 Seattle signed a partnership agreement to develop and implement the Seattle Promise

1 program with a shared commitment to equity, inclusion, and guaranteed access to a post-
2 secondary education for all Seattle School District high school graduates; and

3 WHEREAS, because the kindergarten–12th grade (K–12) school system alone cannot address all
4 barriers to preparing students for post-secondary success, and because Seattle residents
5 support the city’s economic, social, and civic well-being, supplemental funding provided
6 through the FEL and SPP Levies serves a legitimate City purpose; and

7 WHEREAS, proceeds from the FEL and SPP Levies are supplemental to the basic education
8 financed by the State of Washington and the Seattle School District levies and do not
9 displace, nor reduce State or School District funding for the Seattle School District; and

10 WHEREAS, in 2004, the City of Seattle launched a Race and Social Justice Initiative (RSJI),
11 with the vision of eliminating race-based disparities within Seattle, and the mission of
12 eliminating institutional racism and promoting multiculturalism within City government;
13 and

14 WHEREAS, on November 30, 2009, the City Council passed Resolution 31164, which affirmed
15 the City’s commitment to RSJI work and directed City departments to use available tools,
16 including 1) implementation of racial equity toolkits (RETs) in budget, program and
17 policy decisions, including review of existing programs, and 2) education, to assist in the
18 elimination of racial and social disparities across key indicators of success, and

19 WHEREAS, in the 2016 RSJI Community Survey, 92 percent of respondents said government
20 should prioritize addressing racial inequities, and 88 percent agreed that to create equity
21 and opportunity for all, a greater portion of resources should go to those who are most in
22 need; and

1 WHEREAS, in 2017, the City launched Our Best, an initiative to improve life outcomes for
2 Black men and boys through systems-level changes, policy development, and
3 programmatic investments in the areas of education, safety, health, economic mobility,
4 and positive connections to caring adults; and

5 WHEREAS, on November 28, 2017, the Mayor of Seattle, Jenny A. Durkan, signed Executive
6 Order 2017-13 affirming the City’s commitment to the RSJI and stating that the City
7 shall apply a racial equity lens in its work, with a focus in 2018 on actions relating to
8 affordability and education; and

9 WHEREAS, despite significant efforts to provide equitable opportunities for attaining education
10 to Seattle students, disparate racially-identifiable outcomes have systemically persisted in
11 the Seattle School District; and

12 WHEREAS, racial achievement gaps in education are not caused by socioeconomic disparities
13 alone, other factors including access to and the quality of early childhood education and
14 public schools, patterns of residential and school segregation, and state educational and
15 social policies, play important roles in reducing or exacerbating disparities; and

16 WHEREAS, in August 2012, the Seattle School District Board of Directors adopted Policy
17 Number 0030 (“Ensuring Educational and Racial Equity”), affirming its belief that “the
18 concept of education equity goes beyond formal equality—where all students are treated
19 the same—to fostering a barrier-free environment where all students, regardless of their
20 race, class or other personal characteristics such as creed, color, religion, ancestry,
21 national origin, age, economic status, gender, sexual orientation including gender
22 expression or identity, pregnancy status, marital status, physical appearance, the presence
23 of any sensory, mental or physical disability, or the use of a trained dog guide or service

1 animal by a person with a disability, have the opportunity to benefit equally. This means
2 differentiating resource allocation, within budgetary limitations, to meet the needs of
3 students who need more support and opportunities to succeed academically”; and

4 WHEREAS, in 2016, the Seattle School District Board of Directors adopted Policy Number
5 0010 (“Instructional Philosophy”), which affirms its belief that, “every student should be
6 given the opportunity to learn at grade-level and beyond, and the Seattle School Board is
7 committed to ensuring that all students will be afforded the opportunity to fulfill their
8 potential and graduate from high school ready for career, college, and life”; and

9 WHEREAS, the overarching goal of the Families, Education, Preschool, and Promise Levy
10 should be to increase economic opportunities through strategic, equitable investments in
11 education; and

12 WHEREAS, the goals of the Families, Education, Preschool, and Promise Levy are to partner
13 with families and community to achieve educational equity such that Seattle students will
14 have access to and utilize services across a continuum beginning with 1) high-quality
15 early learning services that prepare children for success in kindergarten, 2) physical and
16 mental health services that support learning, 3) college and job readiness experiences that
17 promote high school graduation, and 4) post-secondary opportunities that promote
18 attainment of a certificate, credential, or degree; and

19 WHEREAS, education experts and advocates stress the need to provide a continuum of services
20 for students from preschool to post-secondary; and

21 WHEREAS, a major focus of the Seattle Preschool Program is to narrow the opportunity and
22 achievement gaps that are present in Seattle’s education system, and on average, children
23 from low-income families and historically-underserved children have fewer opportunities

1 to become appropriately prepared for the social and academic challenges of the system
2 than their peers; and

3 WHEREAS, the City continues to refine the Seattle Preschool Program to meet the needs of the
4 community and its children, and narrowing the achievement gap in kindergarten
5 readiness should remain an essential outcome of the program; and

6 WHEREAS, students should have access to healthcare and other health-related services to be
7 healthy and ready to learn; and

8 WHEREAS, Washington State law affirms that the purpose of a high school diploma is “to
9 declare that a student is ready for success in post-secondary education, gainful
10 employment, and citizenship”; and

11 WHEREAS, WAC 180-51-068 increased the minimum number of credits required to graduate
12 from 20 to 24 beginning with the class of 2019, which creates a need for flexible
13 scheduling and more opportunities to earn credits; and

14 WHEREAS, since 2008, the 13th Year Promise Scholarship Program for South Seattle College
15 has seen approximately 500 graduates from Seattle School District enroll through the
16 program; and half of those students said they would not have enrolled if not for the
17 existence of the 13th Year Promise Scholarship Program; and

18 WHEREAS, the collection of taxes from the current FEL and SPP Levies will end in 2018 and
19 services funded by the levies will end unless the levies are renewed; and

20 WHEREAS, the Families, Education, Preschool, and Promise Action Plan is contained in Clerk
21 File 320782, in which all research references cited in this ordinance may be found; and

22 WHEREAS, the Mayor recommends the City place on the November 6, 2018, ballot a measure
23 to renew, expand, and combine the Families and Education and Seattle Preschool

1 Program Levies as one levy for seven years at a funding level of \$619.6 million, which in
2 2019 would add approximately \$0.365 per \$1,000 of assessed value in additional taxes
3 and cost the median assessed valued residence of \$665,000 approximately \$242; NOW,
4 THEREFORE,

5 **BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF SEATTLE AS FOLLOWS:**

6 Section 1. Findings and declarations. The City Council makes the following findings and
7 declarations:

8 A. Seattle's students are its future and the quality of that future depends on providing
9 every student an equitable opportunity to obtain a high-quality education.

10 B. Seattle needs an educated population that is actively engaged in its civic life and
11 contributes to the economic and social well-being of the city.

12 C. In the 2017–18 school year, 64.1 percent of children in Seattle School District
13 kindergarten classes were determined to be “Kindergarten Ready” in the six skill areas recorded
14 on the Washington Kindergarten Inventory of Developing Skills (WaKIDS) assessment tool:
15 social-emotional, physical, language, cognitive, literacy, and math. WaKIDS assessment results
16 reveal achievement disparities among racial and socio-economic subgroups, with significant
17 disparities between children identified as children of color, low-income, or limited-English-
18 proficient and those identified as White. Providing adequate resources and support for children to
19 be Kindergarten Ready has been shown to improve their chance to thrive in kindergarten and
20 beyond.

21 D. While children from families making near or below the federal poverty level (FPL)
22 have access to State- and federally-funded preschool programs, Seattle children from low- and

1 middle-income families above these programs' income thresholds have few affordable,
2 accessible alternatives.

3 E. Research findings have underscored the importance of quality early childhood
4 education by identifying critical periods when a child's brain development facilitates the
5 acquisition of certain skills, such as language, and the need to capitalize on learning
6 opportunities and social experiences. Children acquire a larger vocabulary and stronger language
7 skills if exposed to adults with larger vocabularies.

8 F. Participation in quality public preschool has positive effects on children's school
9 experiences by reducing the demand for grade repetition, special education placement, mental
10 health services, judicial system involvement, and unemployment support, and lowers exposure to
11 toxic stress over the long-term. Quality preschool focuses on comprehensive social, emotional,
12 and cognitive skill development; health and nutrition support; and partnerships with families and
13 elementary schools. Researchers have calculated a 7–10 percent return on investment for high-
14 quality preschool.

15 G. In an independent evaluation of the Seattle Preschool Program's (SPP) four-year
16 demonstration phase, evaluators found that SPP improved classroom quality from year one
17 (2015-16) to year two (2016-17). Evaluators also concluded that SPP kept pace or outperformed
18 quality ratings attained by similar publicly-funded preschool programs in the early years of
19 program implementation and that SPP is preparing children for kindergarten, with the greatest
20 gains among preschool students of color and those from low-income households or families who
21 do not speak English.

1 H. Since 1990, the Families and Education Levy (FEL) has invested in health services for
2 Seattle students. Research findings show that poor health severely limits a child's motivation and
3 ability to learn.

4 I. Research shows that school-based health centers (SBHCs) improve student health and
5 emotional well-being, and that these in turn aid academic performance by increasing attendance
6 rates and student grade point averages over time. Furthermore, adolescents are 21 times more
7 likely to access mental health services at SBHCs than community-based clinics.

8 J. The FEL and SPP Levies currently support approximately 30,000 children annually
9 across 300 service sites in collaboration with 200 partner organizations and institutions.

10 K. Many of the Seattle School District's lowest performing schools are predominately in
11 Central, Southeast, and Southwest neighborhoods of Seattle. These schools have higher
12 percentages of students receiving free and reduced-price lunches (FRL) and transitional bilingual
13 support services, higher concentrations of students who face barriers to educational attainment,
14 and higher numbers of students who lack access to opportunities for preschool, health services,
15 college and job readiness, and post-secondary opportunities.

16 L. In the 2016-17 school year, 36 percent of Seattle School District students qualified for
17 the FRL program, 14 percent qualified for special education services, and 12 percent qualified
18 for the transitional bilingual support program.

19 M. There is a strong link between building social-emotional skills and developing
20 workplace readiness requirements. Expanded learning opportunities that target these skills can
21 play an important role in closing the skills gap between youth from lower-income backgrounds
22 and their more affluent peers so that all young people are prepared for the workforce.

1 N. Research studies of Seattle School District have found that while most students do not
2 drop out of school until their junior or senior year of high school, students exhibit early warning
3 signs of dropout in sixth grade.

4 O. In 2016, 78 percent of Seattle School District students graduated from high school in
5 four years or less; however, African American/Black, American Indian/Alaskan Native,
6 Hispanic/Latino, and students graduated at rates below the district average (70 percent, 63
7 percent, and 55 percent, respectively). Further, students experiencing homelessness had a
8 graduation rate of 50 percent while low-income students graduated at a rate of 68 percent.

9 P. Failing even one course in the ninth grade dramatically increases a student's likelihood
10 of dropping out of high school. In the Seattle School District, 19 percent of all ninth graders
11 failed one or more core courses in the 2015–16 school year. Among African American/Black,
12 Hispanic/Latino, and Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander students, percentages of those
13 failing one or more core courses in ninth grade each exceeded the District average (36 percent,
14 40 percent, and 58 percent respectively).

15 Q. Students who successfully complete Algebra II before graduating from high school are
16 more likely to enroll in post-secondary programs and are more likely to complete a degree.
17 Students who took an Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate course were found to
18 be 17 percent more likely to persist in four-year colleges and 30 percent more likely to persist in
19 two-year colleges.

20 R. During the school year, students of all income levels tend to progress academically at
21 similar rates. However, students who lack access to learning experiences during the summer
22 months lose ground in a phenomenon often referred to as “the summer slide.” By the end of

1 ninth grade, almost two-thirds of the socioeconomic achievement gap can be attributed to
2 differential summer learning.

3 S. Beginning as early as fifth grade, students tend to limit themselves to career paths that
4 are in line with their self-concepts and perceived place in society and the context in which they
5 live. School-based interventions are uniquely positioned to provide opportunities for job
6 exploration. Research shows middle school is a key time to improve the academics and attitudes
7 needed to succeed in high school, college, and beyond.

8 T. Strategies such as exposing students to the importance of college by taking them on
9 college campus visits, identifying prospective colleges, aiding in the college application process,
10 helping families navigate financial assistance, and providing encouragement and support to
11 students who have not formed a college-going identity are critical to helping students become
12 college and job ready and successfully transitioning to college.

13 U. Graduating from high school and completing post-secondary training improves an
14 individual's earning potential and economic self-sufficiency. According to U.S. Census data
15 (2016), a person in Seattle earns an average annual salary of \$61,055 with a bachelor's degree,
16 \$37,293 with an associate degree or some college, \$28,645 with a high school diploma, and
17 \$24,489 with less than a high school diploma.

18 V. Twenty-six percent of Seattle School District graduates in 2015 did not pursue post-
19 secondary education at two- or four-year institutions. Among those who attended a public two-
20 year program, 41 percent dropped out in their first year. Among those who attended a public
21 four-year program, 15 percent dropped out in their first year. These numbers indicate that 41
22 percent of 2015 Seattle School District graduates struggled to access and persist in the pursuit of
23 a post-secondary credential. This "leaky pipeline"—a term often used to describe students'

1 persistence to obtain post-secondary degrees and manifests in reduced social mobility and
2 economic opportunity.

3 W. In 2015, roughly 52 percent of all Seattle School District students who graduated and
4 attended a two-year college took remediation courses; however, students of color took
5 remediation courses at a higher rate of 64–71 percent. The need for remedial coursework
6 increases the financial barriers to accessing and completing post-secondary education for many
7 students and is a barrier for apprenticeship programs.

8 X. The expense of post-secondary education in addition to transportation costs, lack of
9 affordable of housing, non-tuition related college expenses such as textbooks, supplies, and food,
10 and the social pressures faced by many historically-underserved students or first-generation
11 college-going students, may further exacerbate disparities in access to and completion of a post-
12 secondary credential.

13 Y. An urgent need exists to continue the City’s investment in Education-Support Services
14 funded by regular property taxes that support educational equity. This urgency requires
15 submission of a proposition authorizing for up to seven years regular property tax levies in
16 excess of the levy limitations in chapter 84.55 RCW. The proposition should be submitted to the
17 qualified electors of the City of Seattle at a special election to be held in conjunction with the
18 general election on November 6, 2018.

19 Section 2. Statement of policy. It is the paramount duty of the State “to make ample
20 provision for the education of all students.” Education institutions, including the Seattle School
21 District, are directly responsible for providing a basic program of education for all students;
22 however, educational support is essential for a quality education and they cannot do this essential

1 work alone. Government, business, community members and families must work together to
2 advance the success of Seattle students, especially historically-underserved students.

3 A. Priorities for levy funding

4 1. Invest in Seattle children, students, families, and communities that have been
5 historically-underserved to increase access to educational opportunities across the education
6 continuum.

7 2. Establish agreements with community-based organizations, the Seattle School
8 District, Public Health–Seattle & King County, Seattle Colleges, and other institutional partners
9 to allow data-driven and outcomes-based decision-making.

10 3. Implement or continue evidence-based strategies and promising practices to
11 improve program quality and achieve equity in educational outcomes.

12 4. Provide access to capacity-building opportunities for historically-underserved
13 Seattle communities to improve program instruction, quality, and infrastructure.

14 B. Implementation principles

15 1. Prioritize investments to ensure educational equity for historically-underserved
16 groups including African American/Black, Hispanic/Latino, Native American, Pacific Islanders,
17 underserved Asian populations, other students of color, refugee and immigrant, homeless,
18 English language learners, and LGBTQ students.

19 2. Ensure ongoing and authentic student, family, and community engagement and
20 support.

21 3. Maximize partnerships with community, cultural and language-based
22 organizations.

1 4. Ensure Levy proceeds are supplemental and complementary to existing public
2 funding structures and services; funding is never used to supplant state-mandated services.

3 5. Implement competitive processes to identify organizations to partner with the
4 City to deliver services to children and youth.

5 6. Implement accountability structures based on student outcomes, performance-
6 based contracts, performance-based awards, and practice continuous quality improvement.

7 7. Provide financial support that increases access to expanded learning
8 opportunities and affordable services for families and educators.

9 8. Report annually on investments, access to services, and progress toward
10 achieving educational equity.

11 Section 3. Definitions. As used in this ordinance, the following words have the following
12 meanings:

13 “Access” means adequate supply of and engagement in relevant and high-quality
14 opportunities in the absence of geographical, financial, structural, social or cultural barriers that
15 limit upward social mobility.

16 “Achievement Gap” means any significant and persistent disparity in academic
17 achievement or educational attainment between different groups of students, including
18 historically-underserved students.

19 “City” means The City of Seattle.

20 “College and Job Ready” means students equipped with the knowledge and skills
21 deemed essential for success in post-secondary programs and in the modern workforce.

1 “Community-based Organization” means a public or private organization of
2 demonstrated effectiveness that is representative of a community or significant segments of a
3 community and provides educational or related services to individuals in the community.

4 “Education-Support Services” means the array of programs and activities referred to in
5 Section 6 of this ordinance. Education-Support Services, with such modifications as the City
6 Council may from time to time authorize by ordinance.

7 “Educational Equity” means access to educational opportunities and academic
8 achievement are not predicated on a person’s race and socioeconomic status.

9 “Expanded Learning Opportunities” means high-quality before-school, afterschool,
10 summer, and youth development programs that create access to year-round learning to foster
11 college and job readiness through activities such as family engagement, tutoring, mentoring,
12 academics, social and emotional learning, science, technology, engineering and math (STEM),
13 education technology, project-based learning, and culturally-responsive supports.

14 “Family Engagement” means the systemic inclusion of families in activities and
15 programs that promote children’s development, learning, and wellness, including in the planning,
16 development, and evaluation of such activities, programs, and systems.

17 “Family and Community Engagement” means consistent and persistent engagement with
18 an entire community to establish a foundation of partnership, trust and empowerment.

19 “Historically-Underserved Students” means students who experience systemic inequities
20 in educational achievement because of their race, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, English
21 proficiency, special education needs, community wealth, familial situations, housing status,
22 sexual orientation, or other factors.

1 “Kindergarten Ready” means children who are equipped with the knowledge and skills
2 deemed to be essential for success in kindergarten, as measured by the Washington Kindergarten
3 Inventory of Developing Skills (WaKIDS).

4 “Opportunity Gap” means any significant and persistent disparity in access to educational
5 experiences and expanded learning opportunities between different groups of students, including
6 historically-underserved students.

7 “Our Best” means the City's first-ever initiative focusing specifically on improving life
8 outcomes for Black men and boys. As part of the City’s focus on eliminating race-based
9 disparities through the Race and Social Justice Initiative (RSJI), Our Best is the City’s umbrella
10 strategy for systems-level changes, policy development, and programmatic investments that
11 carry an explicit benefit for and ensure that young Black men and boys have equitable access to
12 Seattle’s vast opportunity landscape. Our Best aims to expand opportunity for young Black men
13 and boys in five strategic impact areas: education, safety, health, economic mobility, and positive
14 connections to caring adults.

15 “Post-secondary” means education and/or job training beyond K-12 schooling including
16 apprenticeships, trades, certificate programs, career credentials, and degrees.

17 “Preschool” means an organized education program provided to children below the age
18 and grade level at which the State provides free public education for all.

19 “Proceeds” means that portion of regular property taxes levied and collected as
20 authorized by voter approval pursuant to this ordinance that are above the limits on levies
21 provided for in RCW 84.55.010, and all interest and other earnings derived from that portion of
22 the levy.

1 “School Based Health Centers” indicates school-based facilities that offer high-quality,
2 comprehensive medical and physical health, mental health, oral health, and health promotion
3 services provided by qualified health care professionals before, during, and after school to help
4 students succeed in school and life.

5 “Seattle School Board” indicates the Board of Directors of Seattle School District No.1.

6 “Seattle School District” indicates Seattle School District No. 1.

7 “Seattle Colleges” indicates the Seattle Colleges District, a multi-college district that
8 includes South Seattle College, Seattle Central College, and North Seattle College.

9 “The Plan” indicates the Implementation and Evaluation Plan for the Families,
10 Education, Preschool, and Promise Levy.

11 Section 4. Levy of regular property taxes - submittal. The City hereby submits to the
12 qualified electors of the City a proposition as authorized by RCW 84.55.050 to exceed the levy
13 limitation (“lid”) on regular property taxes contained in chapter 84.55 RCW, as it now exists or
14 may hereafter be amended, for property taxes levied in 2018 through 2024 for collection in 2019
15 through 2025. The proposition shall be limited so that in the first year the City shall not levy an
16 additional tax rate of more than \$0.365 cents per thousand dollars of assessed value in the first
17 year, above and beyond the maximum amount of regular property taxes allowed by RCW
18 84.55.010 in the absence of voter approval under this ordinance, plus other authorized lid lifts.
19 Subsequent years of the Levy, will use the amount of dollars raised by this increased rate to
20 calculate the appropriate limit under RCW 84.55 for the remainder of the Levy. To this new
21 limit there will be added no more than a one percent increase in dollars levied for the purposes of
22 this Levy each year.

1 Proceeds shall be used to provide services identified in Section 6 of this ordinance for
2 Seattle students and their families. In accordance with RCW 84.36.381 and RCW 84.55.050, the
3 City exempts the proposed regular property taxes for qualifying seniors, disabled retirees,
4 disabled veterans, or other qualifying persons. Pursuant to RCW 84.55.050(4), the maximum
5 regular property taxes that may be levied in 2025 for collection in 2026 and in later years shall be
6 computed as if the levy lid in RCW 84.55.010 had not been lifted under this ordinance.

7 Section 5. Application of Proceeds. Unless otherwise directed by ordinance, the Proceeds
8 shall be deposited in a hereafter established fund, the Families, Education, Preschool, and
9 Promise Fund. The Director of the Department of Education and Early Learning (DEEL) shall
10 have responsibility for administering the Fund. Proceeds may be temporarily deposited or
11 invested in such manner as may be lawful for the investment of City money, and interest and
12 other earnings shall be used for the same purposes as the Proceeds.

13 Section 6. Education-Support Services. Services funded by Proceeds are intended to
14 achieve equity in educational outcomes and the Levy's stated goals by providing Seattle students
15 with access to and services across a continuum beginning with high-quality early learning
16 services that prepare children for success in kindergarten, physical and mental health services
17 that support learning, college and job readiness experiences that promote high school graduation,
18 and post-secondary opportunities that promote attainment of a certificate, credential, or degree.
19 Levy investments shall be guided by the Statement of Policy, Priorities for Levy Funding, and
20 Implementation Principles set out in Section 2 of this ordinance. Initially, these core strategies
21 will be pursued through Education-Support Services that include the following:

22 A. Preschool and early learning. Major program elements are intended to increase
23 children's kindergarten readiness and may include: financial support for preschool and childcare

1 tuition, ongoing comprehensive supports for quality teaching, and support for early learning
2 infrastructure development.

3 B. K-12 school and community-based investments. Major program elements are intended
4 to increase student achievement of education milestones and may include: expanded learning
5 opportunities including year-round, out-of-school time activities; academic tutoring, mentoring,
6 and case management; social, emotional, and behavioral skill building; culturally-responsive
7 programming and family engagement activities; college and job readiness activities and college
8 admissions supports; job exploration activities; and advising and guidance related to college and
9 career.

10 C. K-12 school health. Major program elements are intended to provide safe, age-
11 appropriate, culturally-competent care to help children be healthy and ready to learn and may
12 include: comprehensive primary medical care, mental health care, care coordination, connection
13 to community supports, outreach and health education.

14 D. Seattle Promise. Major program elements are intended to increase student access to
15 post-secondary and job training opportunities and may include: academic preparation, post-
16 secondary success coaches, readiness academies, the equivalent of two years of financial support
17 for tuition, and non-tuition financial support.

18 In the annual City budget or by separate ordinance, the City shall determine from year-to-year
19 the Education-Support Services and funding allocations that will most effectively achieve the
20 Families, Education, Preschool, and Promise Levy goals and outcomes. The City is authorized to
21 reallocate within a budget year unexpended and unencumbered funds from one core strategy to
22 another by making operating budget transfers consistent with Seattle Municipal Code Section
23 5.08.020.

1 Section 7. Implementation and Evaluation Plan. Proceeds may be spent only in
2 accordance with an Implementation and Evaluation Plan (“The Plan”) approved by ordinance.
3 The Plan may be amended by ordinance.

4 The Plan shall set forth the following: priority criteria, measurable outcomes, and
5 methodology by which Proceeds-funded strategies will be selected and evaluated; the process
6 and schedule by which DEEL will select and contract with partners to provide services; and the
7 evaluation methodology to measure both individual investments and overall impacts of the
8 Education-Support Services. The achievement of outcomes shall be evaluated, and no one
9 component will determine an individual investment strategy’s effectiveness or the overall
10 effectiveness of the Education-Support Services.

11 DEEL shall create The Plan in close collaboration with City staff in the Mayor's
12 Office, related City departments, and partners such as students, families, historically-underserved
13 communities, educators, community-based organizations, cultural and language-based
14 organizations, Public Health–Seattle & King County, the Seattle School District, Seattle
15 Colleges, other governmental entities, other educational institutions, and other relevant
16 stakeholders. The Plan shall include a summary of participants whose input was used to inform
17 the development of The Plan. During the prioritization of new investments, one RSJI Racial
18 Equity Toolkit (RET)—a process and set of questions designed to assist departments in
19 analyzing the racial equity impact of policies, programs, initiatives and budget issues—may be
20 applied to each strategy listed in Section 6 of this ordinance. Use of RET is consistent with the
21 goals of Executive Order 2017-13, relating to the City’s Race and Social Justice Initiative, and
22 will help minimize harm and maximize the benefit of Education-Support Services to Seattle’s
23 communities of color.

1 Section 8. Accountability and reporting. Upon voter approval of the ballot proposition
2 submitted by this ordinance, there is established an Oversight Committee (Committee) to make
3 recommendations on the design and modifications of Families, Education, Preschool, and
4 Promise Levy-funded programs and to monitor their progress in meeting their intended outcomes
5 and goals.

6 A. The Committee shall review an annual report of Levy outcomes and indicators for the
7 previous school year; review and advise on proposed course corrections, program modifications,
8 and program eliminations; and periodically review and advise on program evaluations. The
9 Council requires that before the Executive submits to the Council the Implementation and
10 Evaluation Plan, Partnership Agreements, or proposes any changes in Levy funding requiring
11 Council approval by ordinance, the Executive will seek the recommendation of the Committee.

12 B. The Committee shall consist of 17 members: the Mayor; the chair of the City
13 Council's committee with oversight of education programs; the Superintendent of the Seattle
14 School District; a member of the Seattle School Board; the Chancellor of Seattle Colleges; and
15 12 appointed members. The Mayor and the City Council shall each appoint six of the appointed
16 members. All members appointed by the Mayor are subject to confirmation by the City Council.

17 C. The 12 appointed members shall be appointed to staggered three-year terms subject to
18 reappointment, except that four of them (two Mayoral appointees and two Council appointees)
19 shall be initially appointed for a single-year term, four (two Mayoral appointees and two Council
20 appointees) shall be initially appointed for a two-year term, and four (two Mayoral appointees
21 and two Council appointees) shall be initially appointed for a three-year term. Upon the
22 resignation, retirement, death, incapacity or removal of a Committee member, the authority
23 appointing such member may appoint a replacement for the balance of the term. The appointing

1 authority may remove any member for good cause, including unexcused absence from two or
2 more consecutive meetings without cause.

3 D. The 12 appointed members should have professional, personal or research experience
4 associated with the growth and development of children, including student academic
5 achievement and post-secondary and job opportunities. The City will seek candidates that
6 represent the organizations and communities that are impacted by Levy investments, including
7 parent teacher associations, labor, community-based organizations, and cultural- and language-
8 based organizations. The City will also seek candidates to serve on the Committee who
9 understand, have experience working with, and represent the historically-underserved groups
10 including African American/Black, Hispanic/Latino, Native American, Pacific Islanders,
11 underserved Asian populations, other students of color, refugee and immigrant, homeless,
12 English language learners, and LGBTQ students.

13 E. At all times no more than five Committee members shall be an officer, director, board
14 member, trustee, partner, or employee of an entity that receives or competes for funding under
15 this ordinance; or be an immediate family member of, or an individual residing with, an officer,
16 director, board member, trustee, partner, or employee of an entity that receives or competes for
17 funding under this ordinance; or be a person seeking or having an arrangement concerning future
18 employment with an entity that receives or competes for funding under this ordinance. For the
19 purposes of this ordinance an individual's "immediate family" means an individual's spouse or
20 domestic partner, child, child of a spouse or domestic partner, sibling, sibling of a domestic
21 partner, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, parent, parent of a spouse or domestic partner, a person for
22 whom the individual is a legal guardian, or a person claimed as a dependent on the individual's
23 most recently filed federal income tax return. Except as provided in the preceding sentence and

1 applicable law, an individual serving as an officer, director, board member, trustee, partner or
2 employee of an entity that receives or competes for funding under this ordinance, or who has an
3 interest in such an entity, shall not be disqualified from serving on the Committee, but shall fully
4 disclose any such relationships and shall not vote on any matter that directly involves the
5 interests of such entity. For purposes of this section, "entity" does not include a City department
6 or office. The provisions of this section are in addition to the requirements of Seattle Municipal
7 Code Chapter 4.16.

8 F. The Mayor and the chair of the City Council's committee with oversight of education
9 programs, or their respective designees, will co-chair the Committee. The Committee should
10 generally meet every other month, or as needed, beginning January 2019. DEEL shall provide
11 staff and logistical support for the Committee. Members shall serve without pay. The Committee
12 shall continue in existence through December 31, 2026, and thereafter if so provided by the City
13 Council.

14 G. The Oversight Committee may consider any issues arising under, and may make any
15 recommendations regarding, programs funded by expired levies covering the same subject matter
16 as the levy created by this ordinance.

17 H. Any committees created by expired levies covering the same subject matter as the levy
18 created by this ordinance are terminated.

19 Section 9. Communications. The City will facilitate communications with, and obtain
20 feedback from, partners such as students, families, historically-underserved communities,
21 educators, community-based organizations, cultural- and language-based organizations, the
22 Seattle School District, Public Health–Seattle & King County, Seattle Colleges, other
23 governmental entities, relevant stakeholders, and related City departments on topics including

1 professional development, workforce development, training programs, updated policies, and
2 other information regarding Education-Support Services, implementation and evaluation, and
3 other pertinent information related to educational equity in general. The City may determine the
4 best method by which to accomplish these communications, with priority given to community-
5 based and in-person communication opportunities including, but not limited to, community
6 meetings with interpretation services provided, participation and representation at City-
7 sponsored and related community outreach and communication activities, print and news media,
8 social media, websites, blogs, emails and listservs.

9 Section 10. Partnership Agreements. The City and its partners shall develop Partnership
10 Agreements that establish the roles and responsibilities of each entity in developing The Plan
11 referenced in Section 7 of this ordinance, in implementing Education-Support Services, and for
12 achieving the desired outcomes for Education-Support Services. They shall outline, in a variety
13 of areas, how the City and its partner institutions will achieve educational equity such that Seattle
14 students will have access to high-quality early learning services, physical and mental health
15 services, college and job readiness experiences, and post-secondary opportunities, as appropriate
16 given the partners' service level and the age-group of their focus students. The Partnership
17 Agreements shall cover items including, but not limited to, data sharing necessary for student
18 enrollment, program evaluations and course corrections, standards for delivery of services,
19 curriculum alignment, sharing of facilities, direct contracting, and other proactive methods for
20 identifying and reaching students and schools most in need of support.

21 Proceeds may only be leveraged to support Seattle School District and Seattle Colleges
22 programs or functions with the existence of a current, effective Partnership Agreement.

1 Section 11. Implementing agreements. If voters approve the Families, Education,
2 Preschool, and Promise Levy proposition, the City may carry out the Education-Support Services
3 with City staff or by agreements with partners such as the Seattle School District, Seattle
4 Colleges, Public Health–Seattle & King County, the State of Washington and the Early
5 Childhood Education and Assistance Program, Head Start Region X, community-based
6 organizations, and with such other agencies and persons as may be appropriate. Additionally, the
7 City may enter into agreements with consultants through the process detailed in Seattle
8 Municipal Code Chapter 20.50.

9 The City shall, when soliciting businesses for goods or services agreements, perform
10 outreach to small, economically-disadvantaged businesses, including those owned by members
11 of historically-underserved communities, include women- and minority-owned business
12 enterprises (WMBE). City agreements with other public entities shall encourage those entities to
13 actively solicit bids for the subcontracting of any goods or services, when such subcontracting is
14 required or appropriate, from qualified small businesses, including those owned by women and
15 minorities. City agreements with businesses for goods and services and with other public entities
16 and non-profits shall encourage these entities to employ a workforce that reflects the region's
17 diversity. All City agreements for goods and services shall require the contracting entities to
18 comply with all then applicable requirements for non-discrimination in employment in federal,
19 state, and City of Seattle laws and regulations.

20 All City agreements funded by Proceeds will stipulate that no assurances are made of
21 continuation beyond the 2025–26 school year after the levy lid lift authorized by the voters has
22 expired.

1 Section 12. Election - Ballot title. The City Council directs the City Clerk to file this
2 ordinance with the Director of Elections of King County, Washington, as ex officio supervisor of
3 elections, requesting the Director of Elections to call and conduct a special election in the City in
4 conjunction with the state general election to be held on November 6, 2018, for the purpose of
5 submitting to the qualified electors of the City the proposition set forth in this ordinance. The
6 City Clerk is directed to certify to the King County Director of Elections the ballot title approved
7 by the City Attorney in accordance with the City Attorney's responsibilities under RCW
8 29A.36.071. The following ballot title containing a statement of subject and concise description
9 is submitted to the City Attorney for consideration:

10
11 CITY OF SEATTLE

12 PROPOSITION NO. ~~XX~~

13 **Families, Education, Preschool, and Promise Levy**

14 The City of Seattle's Proposition ~~XX~~ concerns renewing and enhancing education services to
15 close the opportunity gap.

16 If approved, this proposition would replace two expiring levies and fund early learning
17 and preschool, college and K-12 education support, and job readiness as provided in Ordinance
18 ~~XXXXXX~~. It authorizes regular-property taxes above RCW 84.55 limits over seven years, with an
19 additional tax rate up to \$0.365/\$1,000 of assessed value for taxes collected in 2019. Some
20 seniors and other qualified persons are exempted. The 2019 taxes will be used to compute
21 limitations for subsequent levies, with 1% increases per year.

22 Should this Levy be approved?

23 Yes

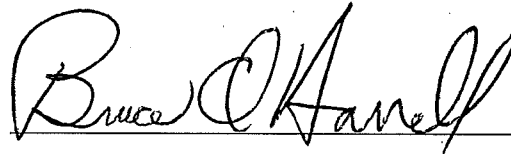
1 No

2 Those in favor shall vote "Yes;" those opposed shall mark their ballots "No."

3 Section 13. Severability. In the event any one or more of the provisions of this ordinance
4 shall for any reason be held to be invalid, such invalidity shall not affect any other provision of
5 this ordinance or the levy of the taxes authorized herein, but this ordinance and the authority to
6 levy those taxes shall be construed and enforced as if such invalid provisions had not been
7 contained herein; and any provision which shall for any reason be held by reason of its extent to
8 be invalid shall be deemed to be in effect to the extent permitted by law.

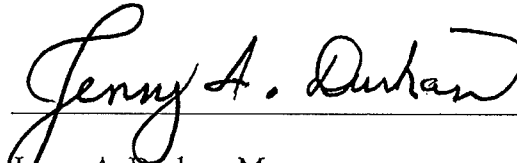
1 Section 14. This ordinance shall take effect and be in force 30 days after its approval by
2 the Mayor, but if not approved and returned by the Mayor within ten days after presentation, it
3 shall take effect as provided by Seattle Municipal Code Section 1.04.020.

4 Passed by the City Council the 18th day of JUNE, 2018,
5 and signed by me in open session in authentication of its passage this 18th day of
6 JUNE, 2018.

7 


8 President _____ of the City Council

9 Approved by me this 27th day of JUNE, 2018.

10 

11 Jenny A. Durkan, Mayor

12 Filed by me this 27th day of JUNE, 2018.

13 


14 Monica Martinez Simmons, City Clerk

15 (Seal)

State of Washington,
County of King

I, Monica Martinez Simmons certify that this is a true and correct
copy of Ordinance No. 125604, on file in the records
of the City of Seattle, Office of the City Clerk



Signed by: 
Signature: _____
Title: City Clerk
Date: 7/25/18