



City of Seattle Mayor Tim Burgess

November 20, 2017

Dear Council President Harrell and Council Members,

The Seattle Preschool Program (SPP) is doing well. We are in the third year of the four-year pilot program and I am pleased to present to you the second evaluation which assesses student and classroom performance through June 2017.

As you know, SPP is supported by a \$58 million levy the voters approved in 2014. The purpose of this program is to make certain our children arrive at kindergarten prepared to learn.

The attached evaluation shows that we are indeed providing high quality preschool opportunities to Seattle 3- and 4-year-olds who otherwise would not be able to benefit from such early learning. This is great news, because studies show that children who attend quality preschool have greater school and career achievement, better health, and are less likely to be involved in criminal activity.

In particular, this second year evaluation shows that the Seattle Preschool Program now has higher scores than three programs used as comparisons: Georgia, Philadelphia, and Washington State's Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program. On average, children of color and those from non-English speaking or low-income homes made the largest gains in vocabulary, literacy, and math—suggesting that we are achieving our aim of closing the kindergarten readiness gap for enrolled children.

This evaluation also shows that we improved classroom quality during the 2016-17 school year, the second year of SPP, while more than doubling the number of classrooms, from 15 to 33. This is exactly the kind of positive progress we had hoped to achieve.

All in all, this evaluation affirms the value of our continued push toward universal preschool in Seattle. Please review this evaluation as you prepare to consider Levy renewal next year.

Sincerely,

Tim Burgess
Mayor, City of Seattle