



**PORTLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT**

501 North Dixon Street / Portland, OR 97227
Telephone: (503) 916-3205 / Fax: (503) 916-3699

Date: May 25, 2021

To: Board of Education

From: Claire Hertz, Deputy Superintendent, Business and Operations
Liz Large, Contracted General Counsel
Kate Wilkinson, Assistant General Counsel

Subject: Resolution re Emergency Contracting Authority to Deliver Summer Learning Programs

BACKGROUND

The pandemic has had an immense and disruptive impact on Oregon’s children. Additionally, COVID-19 has disproportionately impacted Black, American Indian/Alaska Native, and Latino/a/x, Pacific Islander communities; students experiencing disabilities; and students and families navigating poverty. Students, families, and educators have been resilient in the face of the many challenges that have been presented by the pandemic. Nevertheless, many students have experienced interrupted learning and inconsistent connections with their peers. Many students also continue to have basic needs such as food, shelter and wellness, and support for mental, social, and emotional health.

To address these needs, Oregon House Bill 5042A authorizes the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) to make available \$195.6 million General Fund and \$10 million Federal Funds in grant funding to participating school districts for academic summer school to support high school students facing academic credit loss, summer enrichment programs, and wrap-around child care.

On April 23, 2021, ODE issued guidance documents including program parameters describing basic information about the program, how the grant process will work, eligible expenses, funding dates, and funding allocations.

On April 26, 2021, ODE issued the best practice guide and grant application for Summer Learning Programs, and the District has submitted and received approval for its grant in early May 2021. Funds may be spent from May 1, 2021, through September 30, 2021.

RELATED POLICIES/BEST PRACTICES

ODE issued the Summer Learning Best Practice Guide Supporting Mental Health, Addressing Unfinished Learning, and Providing Enrichment Opportunities, which can be found [here](#).

ANALYSIS OF SITUATION

The District has an opportunity to utilize Summer Learning Programs grants from ODE to support learning acceleration, extended learning and enrichment, partnerships with culturally specific partners, and safe and engaging summer activities for students. Deputy Superintendent Hertz, as the Superintendent's Designee, has declared an emergency regarding the District's ability to utilize Funds allocated by the Oregon legislature for 2021 summer learning in response to the COVID-19 public health emergency. It would not be possible to begin summer learning programs in mid-June with the length of time needed to complete a competitive process. If programming begins later in the summer, students would receive fewer services. If the District does not use all of the grant funds, they would revert back to the Oregon Department of Education. District counsel has opined that the criteria are met for the Declaration of the Emergency and authorization for emergency contracting.

FISCAL IMPACT

The District has been awarded \$14.7 million in the Summer Learning Grant Program. The District plans to issue contracts that total up to \$10 million for specifically delineated summer educational and enrichment programs and activities designed to mitigate the impacts of the public health emergency, specifically the social and emotional health and welfare of students and families created by the COVID-19 pandemic.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

There has been a broad, community-wide invitation to apply for funding for summer programs.

TIMELINE FOR IMPLEMENTATION/EVALUATION

The District's application has been approved and leaders presented a [Learning Acceleration presentation](#) to the Board on April 27, 2021. PPS is intentionally implementing a set of strategies to leverage students' assets, strengths, and gifts in order to accelerate learning, provide access to unfinished learning, and move every student towards mastery of key grade-level standards and skills.

The District is receiving applications for summer extended learning and enrichment, partnering with culturally specific and multi-racial organizations, and offering opportunities for youth employment.

Dani Ledezma, Senior Advisor on Racial Equity and Social Justice, will prepare a memo to the Board describing all of the contracted programs being offered and contracts over \$150,000 will be on the business agenda for approval at the June 15, 2021, Board meeting. Summer programming will begin in mid-June.

BOARD OPTIONS WITH ANALYSIS

The Board can approve the Resolution Accepting the Superintendent's Emergency Declaration and Approving an Exemption from the Competitive Bidding Requirements to Allow the District to Utilize Funds from COVID-19 Public Health Emergency Allocations and staff will continue to prepare for summer programs to begin in mid-June. If the Board does not approve the resolution, requiring a competitive bidding process, this will likely delay the start of much

summer programming for six weeks and therefore delay programming and services for students.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

I have reviewed this staff report and concur with the recommendation to the Board.

CH

Claire Hertz
Deputy Superintendent

May 19, 2021
Date

ATTACHMENTS

- A. Draft Resolution
- B. Emergency Declaration Memo