

Action Item - 1

Title: Acceptance of a Sub-award of William Penn Foundation funding from the Public Health Management Corporation (PHMC) for the Tree Canopy Project (\$250,000)

Board of Education Meeting Date: 4/24/2025

Action Under Consideration

The Administration recommends that the Board of Education authorize The School District of Philadelphia, through the Superintendent or his designee, to accept a Donation as follows:

- Name of Donor: William Penn Foundation Grant
- Brief description of item/good:
Grant
- Gift/Donation amount not to exceed: \$250,000

Description:

Why is this contract needed?

The District's GreenFutures sustainability program is to provide each student in Philadelphia with a green, healthy high-performance school and emphasizes the need for students to access outdoor learning environments that integrate greening. These spaces provide vibrant environments for learning and imaginative play, improve air quality, reduce heat and improve the ecology of their outdoor environment.

As one of the largest landowners in Philadelphia, with schools throughout the City, the District is a strategic partner in the City's effort to equitably increase tree canopy on public, private and institutional lands. The District is excited by the opportunity to expand the scope of its green schoolyards program and landscape management team to coordinate concentrated plantings at over 40 schools (serving 14,677 students in elementary, middle, and high school) in high priority areas with the lowest tree canopy in the city struggling with effects of urban heat islands, and the maintenance and upkeep of the District's mature tree canopy at these sites.

As part of the City coalition for improving tree canopy, the District participated in a grant application to the William Penn Foundation (WPF) Urban Trees grant. The District was awarded \$250,000 of the total grant received by the coalition from WPF. The grant will support the Tree Canopy program to remove pavement, support staffing needs, and plant trees.

How is this work connected to the District's plan to achieve Goals and Guardrails?

This project supports Guardrail 1 making every school a safe, healthy and welcoming space for all students, staff and community. Through this project we will create a cleaner and greener space for students to play, relax and learn.

How will the success of this contract be measured?

After all the trees are planted, District staff will inspect and maintain them to support tree survival.

When applicable, is this an evidence-based strategy? If so, what evidence exists to support this approach?

The over 40 schools included in this grant rank high on the District's Equity Screener which helps the District prioritize our efforts on schoolyard improvements.

When applicable, was a larger community of District community members and/or stakeholders involved in this selection process? If so, what groups and how?

The Office of Environmental Management and Services partnered with Capital Programs to develop the scope of work for this grant application with support from grants development and grants fiscal.

Related resolution(s)/action item(s)

N/A

Office Originating Request:

Operations - Environmental Services