

Action Item - 13

Title: Contract with General Recreation Inc. for Emlen Playground Project (\$50,000)

Board of Education Meeting Date: 9/19/2024

Action Under Consideration:

The Administration recommends that the Board of Education authorize The School District of Philadelphia, through the Superintendent or his designee, to execute and perform a contract, subject to funding, as follows:

With:

General Recreation Inc.

Purpose:

To provide and install playground structure and site improvements

Start date: 9/20/2024

End Date: 6/30/2025

Compensation not to exceed:

\$50,000

Location:

Emlen, Eleanor C. School

Renewal Option:

N/A

Maximum Compensation authorized per option period:

N/A

Description:

Why is this contract needed?

Eleanor C. Emlen School, with the support of the Office of Capital Programs, will engage General Recreation Inc. to install a playground structure and improvements on the current schoolyard area for the benefit of the students and their families. The project authorized by this action item is in response to the need to have functional play equipment for students in the Emlen schoolyard.

How will the success of this contract be measured?

The success of this contract will be measured by the use of the students and evidence of organized and safe play. We also expect to see a reduction in behavior issues, recess related injuries and an overall improvement in school climate.

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

Recess as part of the school day not only provides physical activity, but also can support social and emotional learning through peer interaction. This requires safe play structures and an environment where students have opportunities to not only develop motor skills, but also to learn how to share, take turns on play equipment, and discover other play activities when the playground is occupied. Research also shows that recess that includes physical activity helps to combat childhood obesity and other health issues for youth.

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 State Representative, Honorable Christopher M. Rabb of the 200th District along with the Office of Capital Programs and the school community have supported Emlen Elementary School in taking steps to improve the school yard play area. The state representative was instrumental in the School District receiving the \$50,000 Job Training and Education Programs Grant (previously accepted) from the Pennsylvania Department of Education for the purpose of purchasing and installing a play structure.

Which Goal and/or Guardrail does this Action Item support?

Has this investment been discussed during a progress monitoring session? Which session?

A playground primarily connects with Guardrail 1 and 2; however, the playground's functions and overall space improvements would support all District Goals and Guardrails. The addition of this play structure will expand the opportunity to incorporate play into learning experiences for elementary aged children.

Does this Action Item support a specific strategy/intervention identified in the Strategic Plan?

Priority Area 1 - Improve safety and well being

1.1 - Establish a facilities master plan project team, including internal and external stakeholders, to identify a process and investments needed to significantly improve academic achievement and to achieve Guardrails 1 and 2.

1.11 - Implement recess supervised by trained staff and aligned to national best practices for all K-8 students.

Related resolution(s)/action item(s)

March 28, 2024; #29

Funding Source(s)

FY25 Categorical

Office Originating Request:

School Performance