

37. Authorization of Head Start Parent Activity Fund (\$500,000)

Action Item - 37

Board of Education Meeting Date: 6/26/2025

Title: Authorization of Head Start Parent Activity Fund (\$500,000)

Action under consideration

The Administration recommends that the Board of Education authorize The School District of Philadelphia, through the Superintendent or his designee, contingent upon receipt of sufficient FY26-FY30 state and federal Head Start grant funding, to continue a Head Start Parent Activity Fund, as follows:

Purpose: To provide parents the opportunity and experience in planning, developing and implementing their own projects and to enhance family and community involvement throughout the School District's Head Start network at each of over 100 program locations.

Start Date: July 1, 2025

End Date: June 30, 2030

Compensation not to exceed: \$100,000 per fiscal year

Location(s):

Citywide

Description:

Federal Head Start regulations require that all grantees support the creation and activities of Parent Committees at each site. According to federal Head Start regulation, Parent Committees are comprised exclusively of parents of currently enrolled children. One of the required roles of the Parent Committees is to work with staff in developing and implementing local activities and strategies to engage and empower all enrolled families. Parent Committees are allocated a specific dollar amount from the Parent Activity Fund to develop and implement projects and activities for these purposes. The Parent Activity Fund is fully funded through federal and state Head Start grant funding.

In accordance with federal Head Start guidance, the Parent Activity Fund is money set aside in the annual Head Start budget to provide Parent Committees the opportunity and experience to plan, develop and implement their own locally-designed projects. Each Parent Committee is allocated a specific amount from the Parent Activity Fund based on the number of children enrolled at the Head Start site that the Parent Committee represents. The Parent Committee collectively decides how they want to spend the funds, and makes a request to the District's Head Start management team and Policy Council for review and approval.

Specific examples of the kinds of activities allowed and supported by the Parent Activity Fund include:

- Identifying a special speaker to present at a Parent Committee meeting and paying his or her fee.
- Including parents on a field trip to the zoo and paying their entrance fee.
- Paying the registration fee and expenses for a Parent of the Year to attend a state Head Start Association conference.
- Sponsoring a family photo evening when a school photographer comes to take children's photos and using the parent activity dollars to pay all or a portion of the additional cost for the family portraits.

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

The work of the Parent Committees and the Parent Activity Fund are fully consistent with the Philadelphia Board of Education's Guardrail 3, regarding parent/family engagement.

Related resolution(s)/approval(s):

May 26, 2022, #33

Funding Source(s):

FY26 Categorical

FY27 Categorical

FY28 Categorical

FY29 Categorical

FY30 Categorical

Office Originating Request:

School Performance

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