



Memorandum

TO: Satpal Sidhu, County Executive
FROM: Erika Lautenbach, Director
RE: Ferndale School District - ADA Compliant Playground Contract
DATE: NOVEMBER 6, 2024

Attached is a contract between Whatcom County and Ferndale School District for your review and signature.

This substitute contract revises the funding source from American Rescue Plan Act funds to the Community Priorities Fund and updates the agreement start date. Subsequently, revisions include removing all references to federal funding including ARPA, subrecipients, Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (SLFRF), and subawards.

- **Background and Purpose**

Through a competitive bidding process (RFP 23-87) Ferndale School District, (FSD) was selected and recommended for funding to be used to purchase and install an ADA-compliant playground at their Mountain View Learning Center to accommodate program growth. Recently the Ferndale School District was awarded 58 additional Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP) slots through the Northwest Educational Services District 189, bringing their total capacity to 151 children age 3-5, 50% of whom have Individualized Educational Programs (IEPs). These IEPs outline the services and instructions that students with special needs require in order to receive a meaningful education. Investing in such programs provides kids with special needs more hours per day of specialized supports than what the developmental preschool programs in school districts can currently provide.

Providing funding for this playground equipment, in conjunction with FSD's slot expansion of ECEAP, allows for children with special needs to work towards a variety of kindergarten readiness activities through play-based learning curriculum used in FSD's early education programs. This playground will allow special needs children to fully participate, which increases FSD's access to children across the needs spectrum.

- **Funding Amount and Source**

Funding for this contract, in an amount not to exceed \$700,000, is provided by the Community Priorities Fund. These funds are included in the 2024 budget and Council authorization is required, per WCC 3.08.100, as funding for this contract exceeds \$40,000.

Please contact Eric Chambers, Special Projects Manager at 360-778-6199 (EKChambe@co.whatcom.wa.us) or Ann Beck, Community Health & Human Services Manager at 360-778-6055 (ABeck@co.whatcom.wa.us), if you have any questions.

Encl.