



Memorandum

TO: Satpal Sidhu, County Executive
FROM: Erika Lautenbach, Director
RE: Ferndale School District – Healthy Children’s Fund Innovative Services Agreement
DATE: FEBRUARY 28, 2025

Attached is an interlocal agreement between Whatcom County and Ferndale School District for your review and signature.

▪ **Background and Purpose**

Through this agreement, the Ferndale School District (District) will increase kindergarten readiness for students ages 3-5 by expanding its Latino Family Support & Early Learning Initiative Program through the provision of comprehensive and culturally responsive services, including bilingual communication, employment of a Latino Family Engagement Coordinator, and the purchase and distribution of culturally relevant resources.

This agreement will also expand access to the Family Resource Center (FRC) during the summer months, which is currently closed during that time, so that all families have year-round access to FRC resources and services that address the educational and support gaps that impede kindergarten readiness. Expanding FRC access during summer will support on-time enrollment of early learning qualifying students which is crucial to ensure kindergarten readiness.

This agreement is awarded as a result of RFP 24-66 and aligns with the Healthy Children’s Fund Implementation Plan’s Strategy Six to support innovative approaches to expand early learning opportunities and family support services for underserved populations, especially low-income, rural Latino, and migrant families.

▪ **Funding Amount and Source**

Funding for this agreement, in an amount not to exceed \$149,000, is provided by the Healthy Children’s Fund. These funds are included in the 2025 budget. Council authorization is required per RCW 39.34.030(2) for agreements between public agencies.

Please contact Sarah Simpson, Children and Family Programs Supervisor at 360-410-2400 if you have any questions.

Encl.