

1 CITY OF SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO

2 RESOLUTION NO. 2017-24

3 INTRODUCED BY:

4
5 Mayor Javier M. Gonzales

6 Councilor Peter N. Ives

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10 A RESOLUTION

11 ESTABLISHING GUIDELINES FOR THE SANTA FE EARLY CHILDHOOD
12 INITIATIVE; ESTABLISHING GUIDELINES TO GUIDE EARLY CHILDHOOD
13 EDUCATION; AND CALLING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN EARLY
14 CHILDHOOD EDUCATION COMMISSION.

15
16 WHEREAS, Santa Feans are committed to a healthy, vibrant, and inclusive community,
17 and want to do right by the youngest children; and

18 WHEREAS, all children have a right to high-quality early education that nurtures them
19 and sets them up for a brighter future; and

20 WHEREAS, some of Santa Fe’s young children have access to such education, but many
21 are left out, particularly those in families struggling to make ends meet; and

22 WHEREAS, studies have found that one of the core elements of high-quality early
23 learning depends on the competency, education, and compensation of a child’s teacher/caregiver;
24 and

25 WHEREAS, the State of New Mexico's current system has fallen short of providing

1 equitable access to high quality care that all families can afford; and

2 **WHEREAS**, early childhood education is one of the most effective strategies the city can
3 pursue to support its children; and

4 **WHEREAS**, study after study show the benefits of high-quality, publicly funded early
5 childhood education for all children’s development – and for children in low-income families – is
6 profound; and

7 **WHEREAS**, early childhood education is also a smart investment, as it has been shown
8 to pay off with positive economic returns to communities; and

9 **WHEREAS**, development of an early childhood initiative will provide an estimated 196
10 new jobs for early childhood teachers and staff; and

11 **WHEREAS**, additional economic benefits will be realized through a reduction in
12 childcare expenses for working parents, and increased productivity as those parents are able to
13 work while their children have high-quality full-day care; and

14 **WHEREAS**, in later years, benefits will include less need for special and remedial
15 education programs, and a lower rate of grade retention; and

16 **WHEREAS**, a fully implemented early childhood initiative is estimated to generate
17 \$3.30 in economic benefit for every \$1 in costs; and

18 **WHEREAS**, this amount could potentially be higher based on evidence that children
19 who attend quality early learning programs have higher rates of educational attainment, earn
20 better wages, have better health outcomes than others, and are less likely to rely on public
21 services.

22 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE**
23 **CITY OF SANTA FE** that the goal of early childhood education is to contribute to the healthy
24 development and successful transition to kindergarten for Santa Fe’s young children ages 0-4
25 years old by using funds raised through the sugar-sweetened beverage tax to provide high-quality

1 early learning opportunities for all families who want them, defined by annual household income.

2 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the following guidelines, developed through
3 extensive research, local experience, and community priorities, shall guide development of Santa
4 Fe's Early Childhood Initiative:

- 5 1. Be responsive to the needs of Santa Fe;
- 6 2. Build on, improve, strengthen, and increase, but not be duplicative of, Santa Fe's
7 current early childhood education capacity and assets;
- 8 3. Provide access to early childhood education, to all families in Santa Fe based
9 upon their ability to pay and defined by annual household income;
- 10 4. Attend to learning and development for children ages 0-8 years old;
- 11 5. Leverage high quality throughout Santa Fe's early childhood programs and
12 services;
- 13 6. Use approaches supported by evidence of the likely and expected impacts on
14 early childhood education outcomes such as meeting social, emotional, cognitive, language and
15 physical developmental milestones to ensure a successful transition to kindergarten; and
- 16 7. Be cost effective.

17 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the city of Santa Fe establishes the following
18 policies to guide early childhood education:

- 19 1. Provide affordable, high-quality early childhood education to Santa Fe 3 and 4
20 year olds. Contracts will be awarded through a competitive process to early childhood education
21 providers to fill Santa Fe's unmet need for nearly 1000 places in high-quality programs. Priority
22 for contracts shall be given to programs that serve 3 and 4 year olds from households in need,
23 defined by annual household income; are in areas of low/no quality providers; or are in low-
24 income neighborhoods. Providers will be required to reach and/or maintain New Mexico's
25 Children, Youth and Families Division (CYFD) 4 and 5 star Public Education Department Pre-K,

1 National Association for the Education of Young Children, or comparable quality standards
2 developed by a school district as defined by the Public School Code within which the provider is
3 located; those that do not meet any one of these standards shall take specific measures to address
4 barriers to quality improvement within a specified timeline, and have support to do so. In addition
5 to public and private providers, those affiliated with religious institutions will be eligible to
6 participate, but no city funds may be used for religious instruction or materials. All families that
7 want to participate will be able to, with targeted support based upon an ability to pay. Future
8 contracts may include programs focused on prenatal care and children 0-2 years old.

9 2. Conduct an outreach campaign to educate families and the community about
10 early childhood brain development and the value of early learning. The city of Santa Fe will work
11 with public and private community partners to support culturally inclusive strategies to increase
12 parental awareness, public understanding, and support for early childhood learning both at home
13 and in structured programs.

14 3. Develop a “navigation system” to assist families of children 0-4 to understand
15 and access the programs and services available to them. Three types of assistance will be
16 provided:

17 a. Information about Santa Fe’s public and private services and programs
18 for young children, and other resources to support families of young children – housing,
19 health, food security and financial assistance.

20 b. Referrals to programs and services that meet families’ particular needs.

21 c. Hands-on support in seeking out, applying for, securing financial
22 assistance, and other processes to enable families to take full advantage of all state and
23 local programs and resources.

24 4. Provide support and resources to early childhood educators to ensure quality and
25 consistency of early childhood programs. The city will contract with entities with expertise in

1 educator training and workforce development to provide support, resources, training programs,
2 and professional development that will strengthen the professional preparation, career
3 advancement, and access to appropriate compensation that are essential to high-quality early
4 childhood teaching. Provide employment to educators and staff that include competitive,
5 comparable compensation and benefit packages that are essential in maintaining a high quality
6 invested workforce.

7 5. Establish support for sustainable early childhood infrastructure to serve Santa
8 Fe's infants, toddlers, and pre-kindergarteners. This will include policy development that:

9 a. supports local providers to increase access, quality, and affordability of
10 programs and services; and

11 b. enables families to understand, access, and easily choose the set of
12 services and programs that best meet their children's needs.

13 6. Conduct a rigorous evaluation process to monitor and report program quality and
14 effectiveness. This will include:

15 a. Collecting baseline data, including, but not limited to:

16 1. existing program capacity and quality;

17 2. the number of children from different socio-economic groups
18 receiving early childhood education;

19 3. current levels of student data (including kindergarten readiness
20 and third-grade reading performance; and absenteeism);

21 4. Establishing baseline health data for children in the city of Santa
22 Fe;

23 5. An action plan to increase access to healthy foods and reduce
24 sugar consumption; and

25 6. Regularly report on the health impacts of the program.

- 1 b. Annual data collection and reporting on key program outcomes:
- 2 1. increases in program capacity;
- 3 2. increases in program quality (using both the CYFD ratings and
- 4 program assessment instruments);
- 5 3. the number of children from different socio-economic groups
- 6 receiving high-quality early childhood education;
- 7 4. outcomes of program participants (including literacy;
- 8 kindergarten readiness, as measured by the New Mexico Pre-K Observation Tool
- 9 (KOT); and third-grade reading achievement)

10 7. Assess the short-term economic impact of the program. This will entail

- 11 a. Collecting baseline data, including, but not limited to:
- 12 1. Number of early childhood workers (teachers and support staff);
- 13 2. Number of hours of parental employment of new program
- 14 participants (including those not currently in early childhood programs and those
- 15 now in part-time programs .
- 16 b. Annual data collection and reporting of
- 17 1. number of early childhood workers (teachers and support staff);
- 18 2. number of hours of parental employment of program
- 19 participants.

20 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the city shall establish, by ordinance, an Early

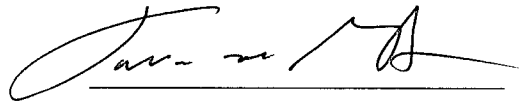
21 Childhood Education Commission to provide oversight and administration of the Santa Fe Early

22 Childhood Initiative.

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24 PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 8th day of March, 2017.

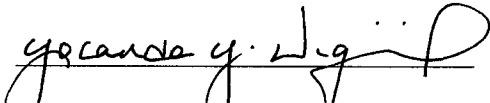
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JAVIER M. GONZALES, MAYOR

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ATTEST:


VOLANDA Y. VIGIL, CITY CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM:


KELLEY A. BRENNAN, CITY ATTORNEY