

VI.e



TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: Shirley Ritter, Kids First Director

THRU: Jessica Garrow, Community Development Director

MEETING DATE: April 22, 2019

RE: Resolution # 50, Series of 2019: Colorado HB19-1262 Full Day funding for Kindergarten support

REQUEST OF COUNCIL: Kids First Advisory Board asks that Aspen City Council approve Resolution # __ series of 2019, in support of Colorado House Bill 19-1262, State Funding for Full-day Kindergarten.

BACKGROUND: Kindergarten in Colorado has historically been funded at half the rate, shifting the cost to schools to absorb in other ways, and to families who are asked to pay to send their child to Full-day Kindergarten. In the Aspen School District, Full-day Kindergarten has been offered for many years, but parents are asked to pay \$2,000 for the year to cover the remaining cost. If this is paid after September 30, the cost is \$2,200, and a discount is offered if the family had a second child in childcare. There are also supply and technology fees due at registration. In some districts across the state, the cost to families sending their child to Full-day Kindergarten is as high as \$4,500. This creates an additional barrier to families that cannot afford this cost or have other financial needs.

The Colorado State Legislature has debated some version of fully paid Kindergarten for eleven (11) years. This year's bill, HB 19-1262, has been introduced with bi-partisan sponsorship and support; however, support is still needed to make this a priority in this Legislative Session. The direct benefit to the Aspen School District in overall funding increase due to budget proposal and funding for full day Kindergarten would be \$1,108,070. There would also be a significant financial benefit to families in Aspen and across the state. Children will benefit from more early learning time and children with special learning and developmental needs will be supported with appropriate interventions.

DISCUSSION: Our community and our state prosper when our kids thrive. Funding full day Kindergarten is an investment that will have short and long-term positive outcomes for our children. HB19-1262 is attached as Exhibit A, and the active online link will show changes as the bill moves forward: https://leg.colorado.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2019A/bills/2019a_1262_01.pdf.

Importantly, on a state-wide level this legislation would free up 5,000 early learning spots currently used to support Full-day Kindergarten and make those available to be used for pre-school age children instead. See Exhibit B for an analysis of the impact this legislation will have within State Senate District 5, which includes Aspen and other Roaring Fork Valley Communities.



FINANCIAL/BUDGET IMPACTS: There is no fiscal impact to the City of Aspen, nor Kids First. There is state budget in the fiscal note: \$174,782,914 for FY 2019-2020; and \$184,596,817 for FY 2020-2021.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS: No environmental impact.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Aspen City Council approval of resolution # 50 series of 2019, in support of Colorado House Bill 19-1262, State Funding For Full-day Kindergarten.

ALTERNATIVES: If Council does not want to approve the Kids First Advisory Board recommendation, individuals could write their own letters of support to State Representative Julie McCluskie and Senator Kerry Donovan.

PROPOSED MOTION: I move to approve Resolution # 50 series of 2019 to show City of Aspen support of Colorado HB19-1262 State Funding for Full-day Kindergarten.

CITY MANAGER COMMENTS: _____

ATTACHMENTS:

Exhibit A – HB19-1262 State Funding for Full-Day Kindergarten

Exhibit B – District 5 Fact Sheet “What does the Full-Day Kindergarten Proposal Mean for Senate District 5?”

VI.e

RESOLUTION #50
(Series of 2019)

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ASPEN, COLORADO,
PROVIDING FORMAL SUPPORT FOR HB 19-1262, PROVIDING FUNDING FOR
FULL-DAY KINDERGARTEN IN THE STATE OF COLORADO.**

WHEREAS, the State of Colorado currently only funds half-day kindergarten, shifting the cost for Full-day Kindergarten to schools to absorb in other ways, and to families who are asked to pay to send their child to Full-day Kindergarten; and,

WHEREAS, the current funding levels creates an un-equal playing field for children and their families to access equal kindergarten educational opportunities; and,

WHEREAS, the Aspen Area Community Plan calls for all residents to have equal access to educational opportunities (Lifelong Aspenite Policy IV.1); and,

WHEREAS, State House Bill 19-1262, State Funding of Full-day Kindergarten, would provide all of Colorado's children with fully-funded Full-day Kindergarten; and,

WHEREAS, The Kids First Advisory Board unanimously recommended the City of Aspen City Council vote to support HB 19-1262.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ASPEN, COLORADO,

That the City of Aspen hereby supports HB 19-1262, State Funding for Full-day Kindergarten, in order for all children in Aspen and the State of Colorado to have equal access to kindergarten education.

INTRODUCED, READ AND ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of Aspen on the 22nd day of April 2019.

Steven Skadron, Mayor

I, Linda Manning, duly appointed and acting City Clerk do certify that the foregoing is a true and accurate copy of that resolution adopted by the City Council of the City of Aspen, Colorado, at a meeting held April 22nd, 2019.

Linda Manning, City Clerk