



**BUSINESS OF THE CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF MERCER ISLAND**

**AB 6310
July 18, 2023
Consent Agenda**

AGENDA BILL INFORMATION

TITLE:	AB 6310: Interlocal Agreement with Mercer Island School District No. 400 for Enrollment of City Employee’s Children/Dependents	<input type="checkbox"/> Discussion Only <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Action Needed: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Motion <input type="checkbox"/> Ordinance <input type="checkbox"/> Resolution
RECOMMENDED ACTION:	Authorize the City Manager to execute the Interlocal Agreement.	

DEPARTMENT:	City Manager
STAFF:	Jessi Bon, City Manager Bio Park, City Attorney
COUNCIL LIAISON:	Dave Rosenbaum Ted Weinberg
EXHIBITS:	1. Interlocal Agreement for Enrollment of City Employee’s Children/Dependents
CITY COUNCIL PRIORITY:	n/a

AMOUNT OF EXPENDITURE	\$ n/a
AMOUNT BUDGETED	\$ n/a
APPROPRIATION REQUIRED	\$ n/a

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this agenda item is to authorize the Interlocal Agreement (ILA) between the City of Mercer Island (City) and Mercer Island School District No. 400 ("District") for enrollment of children and dependents of City employees who do not reside on Mercer Island.

- Under the ILA, eligible City employees who do not reside on Mercer Island would have the opportunity to enroll their children and dependents in District public schools.
- To be eligible for enrollment, a child must be the dependent child of a full-time or part-time City employee.
- The initial duration of the ILA is until August 31, 2025, which is equivalent to two (2) school years.

BACKGROUND

The District approached the City this past Spring to inquire whether the City would be agreeable to the District extending public school enrollment to children and dependents of nonresident City employees. An informal survey to gauge the level of interest from City employees showed there was immediate interest, and the District and the City began working on an ILA to make this opportunity possible to interested City employees.

An ILA is required to make this opportunity possible, because statutory restrictions on receiving compensation and benefit for City employment prohibit the District from offering this opportunity directly to City employees without an agreement with the City. The ILA, drafted by the District in collaboration with the City, is attached as Exhibit 1, and it has already been approved by the District Board.

ISSUE/DISCUSSION

Beginning with the 2023-2024 school year, the ILA, if approved by the City Council, opens enrollment at District public schools to children and dependents of eligible City employees who do not reside on Mercer Island. To be eligible for enrollment, a child must be the dependent child of a full-time or part-time City employee, including limited term employee whose employment term with the City is at least one year in length, who is employed by the City on a regular basis and who receives City-paid benefits. Children and dependents of temporary, casual, or seasonal employees are not eligible.

Enrollment of children and dependents of eligible employees may continue as long as the ILA or renewal/extension thereto remains in effect, and the City employee remains eligible. The ILA also provides for transition of enrolled students when there is a change in their parent's employment status with the City. Such students will be allowed to finish their school years, and those in their junior year will be allowed to return for their senior year.

The initial term of the ILA is until August 31, 2025, which is equivalent to two (2) full school years. At the sole discretion of the District, the ILA may be renewed for successive two (2) year terms for up to four (4) times. Notice will be provided to the City by February 1 of the last then effective year of the ILA indicating the District's intentions whether or not to renew the ILA.

The opportunity to enroll their children and dependents at District public schools will be attractive to current eligible City employees, which may help with employee retention. It will also make the City more attractive to applicants considering positions at the City.

NEXT STEPS

If the City Council authorizes the ILA, a City policy will be issued describing the terms under which this opportunity will be made available to eligible City employees. Because the District controls the details of this opportunity, as well as the renewal and changes thereto after the initial term, the City policy will have to include restrictions to ensure precedents are not set and the City will not have to bargain impacts to changes implemented by the District, including the termination of the ILA.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Authorize the City Manager or designee to execute an interlocal agreement with the Mercer Island School District No. 400 for enrollment of City employee's children/dependents substantially in the form attached as Exhibit 1.