



Memo No. 4 for Southeast Seattle Education Coalition | FEPP Levy - Select Committee Notes, July 22, 2026. Full Video: [Link](#)

On July 22, the FEPP Levy Select Committee concluded its review of the proposed six-year Implementation and Evaluation Plan, approving a total of 16 amendments. The amended plan now advances to the full Seattle City Council for a final vote on Tuesday, July 28.

This memo summarizes key themes from public testimony, highlights the committee's final discussion of Amendments 1–11, and provides an overview of five additional amendments. It also takes a closer look at Amendment 14, which could have significant implications for community-based organizations and community partnership in the implementation of the FEPP Levy.

Key Themes of Public Testimony

Thirty-six individuals provided public testimony, including students, parents, caregivers, educators, and representatives from community-based organizations. Several advocacy groups also submitted written comments and open letters, particularly regarding Amendments 4 and 6.

Three themes emerged during public testimony:

- **Continued debate over Amendment 6.** Testimony remained divided on Amendment 6. Opponents argued that redirecting levy funds could delay Universal School Meals, while supporters emphasized the need to target resources to families experiencing the highest levels of food insecurity. Across both perspectives, speakers affirmed the importance of ensuring every child has access to nutritious meals.
- **A focus on educational equity.** In SESEC's testimony, we emphasized that the FEPP Levy should remain focused on advancing educational equity and closing opportunity gaps. We encouraged the Committee to ensure that implementation decisions support both high-quality Universal School Meals and the levy's broader equity goals.
- **Questions about Amendment 14.** A few comments emerged about Amendment 14, which would require a competitive funding process for community-based organizations after the first two to three years of levy implementation. Testimony reflected differing views on balancing funding stability for existing partners with opportunities for new organizations to access levy resources.

Final Vote on Amendments + Overview of New Amendments

The Select Committee approved all 16 amendments included in the final package, incorporating amendments previously adopted as well as the five new amendments introduced in the Chair's Package.

The summaries below focus on **Amendments 12–16**, which were first introduced at the July 22 meeting. We provide additional analysis of **Amendment 14**, given its potential implications for community-based organizations and future FEPP funding processes.

Amendment	Overview	SESEC Considerations
Amendment 12, sponsored by CM Rivera	Adding Red Barn Ranch as a Potential Location for Environmental Learning Programs. Adds Red Barn Ranch as a potential location for FEPP-supported environmental learning opportunities.	Support. Expanding environmental learning opportunities can create additional pathways for students to engage in hands-on, place-based education. SESEC encourages continued

		consideration of accessibility, transportation, and equitable participation for students across Seattle.
Amendment 13, sponsored by CM Rivera	Path to Trades Non-College Eligibility. Expands eligibility for Path to Trades programming to include students pursuing career pathways that do not require college enrollment.	Support. Recognizing multiple postsecondary pathways aligns with the goal of expanding career opportunities for students. SESEC supports investments that connect students with culturally responsive career exploration, mentorship, and workforce development opportunities.
Amendment 14, sponsored by CM Rivera	Modification to Timeline for Competitive Processes. Adjusts the timeline for implementing competitive funding processes for FEPP-supported programs.	Monitor. This amendment may have significant implications for community-based organizations. While competitive processes may create opportunities for new organizations to access FEPP funding, they may also create uncertainty for existing partners that have developed trusted relationships and infrastructure to serve students and families. SESEC will continue advocating for transparent processes, meaningful community engagement, and funding approaches that recognize the value of sustained community partnerships.
Amendment 15, sponsored by CM Foster	Public Service Career Programs Eligibility. Expands eligibility for programs connected to public service career pathways.	Support. Expanding access to public service career opportunities can strengthen pathways for students interested in serving their communities. SESEC encourages continued partnership with organizations that provide career exposure, mentorship, and workforce preparation.
Amendment 16, sponsored by CM Rivera	Technical Corrections. Makes technical and clarifying updates to the final Implementation and Evaluation Plan.	No significant policy impact. This amendment ensures the final plan accurately reflects the approved changes.

Spotlight Amendments

Amendment 14

What it does

This amendment establishes that FEPP investments awarded through competitive processes will generally be re-bid every 2–3 years rather than continuing for the full levy period. Other FEPP investments may continue through direct agreements authorized under Ordinance 127238.

Why it was proposed

The amendment is intended to create more regular opportunities for organizations to compete for FEPP funding and strengthen accountability for funded programs. Council members emphasized the importance of balancing stability for current providers with opportunities for new organizations and approaches to be considered.

Key considerations

While multi-year awards may provide some stability, organizations receiving competitive awards may need to regularly demonstrate impact through future RFP processes. Additional clarity is needed on how evaluation results will inform

funding decisions and how community-based organizations will be supported in measuring and demonstrating outcomes.

Implications for community partners

Community-based organizations should anticipate a more frequent competitive funding environment for certain FEPP investments. Clear evaluation expectations and equitable processes will be important to ensure organizations with strong community relationships and effective programs are positioned to continue serving students and families.

What is next?

The implementation and evaluation plan now heads to the Full Council for final discussion. Council will vote on July 28nd.