

LEGISLATIVE DIGEST

[Charter Amendment - Student Success Fund]

Describing and setting forth a proposal to the voters at an election to be held on November 5, 2024, to amend the Charter of the City and County of San Francisco to provide that money set aside for the San Francisco Unified School District in the Student Success Fund cannot replace, supplant, count as, or substitute for other City funding for the School District or children and youth required under the Children and Youth Fund, the Public Education Enrichment Fund, or other provisions in the Charter.

Existing Law

The Charter establishes a set-aside fund called the Student Success Fund. The Student Success Fund pays for grants from the Department of Children, Youth, and Their Families (“DCYF”) to schools in the San Francisco Unified School District, or to the School District itself, to support academic achievement and social/emotional wellness of students. The Fund pays for three types of grants: Student Success Grants, Technical Assistance Grants, and District Innovation Grants.

The City must appropriate specified amounts of money to the Fund each year. In Fiscal Year 2024-2025, the City must appropriate \$35 million to the Fund, and the annual requirement will grow in future years, subject to some exceptions.

The Charter also establishes two additional set-aside funds that benefit children called the Public Education Enrichment Fund (the “PEEF”) and the Children and Youth Fund. Those funds provide funding each year for public education and for children and youth services, respectively. In order to ensure that these set-aside funds increase the City’s total expenditures on public education and youth services, rather than replacing other sources of funding, both the PEEF and the Children and Youth Fund require the City to spend a certain amount of money every year (the “baseline” amount) for these purposes, using money that is separate from the set-aside funds.

Amendments to Current Law

The proposed Charter amendment would prohibit the City from counting expenditures from the Student Success Fund when calculating the Children and Youth Fund baseline, the PEEF baseline, or any other similar provisions in the Charter. The Charter amendment would require the City to spend money other than the Student Success Fund to meet these baseline requirements.

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