



EDUCATION

Department Description

The Department of Education was created by Mayor Coleman in 2014 at the recommendation of the Columbus Education Commission. The department works closely with Columbus City Schools, local colleges and universities, charter schools, community groups, businesses, and organizations devoted to education and workforce development.

In its inaugural year, the department established an early learning program that greatly expanded pre-kindergarten services in Columbus, developed a workforce development initiative in collaboration with Columbus State Community College and Central Ohio Workforce Investment Corporation (COWIC) to rapidly train and employ unemployed and underemployed Columbus adults, and worked with Columbus City Schools to improve educational outcomes.

Department Mission

The department is charged with promoting and encouraging public engagement in education issues, recommending policies, procedures, and legislation relative to public education, as well as implementing recommendations of the Columbus Education Commission.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES FOR 2015

Education

The Early Start Columbus program will continue in 2015. Through this program, the department is working towards universal pre-kindergarten services for all eligible children in Columbus. In 2015, the department will continue to assess and monitor the success and quality of the pre-kindergarten programs funded through Early Start Columbus.

Continue the city-state preschool expansion program, which involves the assessment and monitoring of pre-kindergarten programs funded through the city-state partnership. The department will seek maximum participation in this program.

Work with the State of Ohio on the federal preschool expansion grant application, pursuant to being named one of the “Partnering Communities”.

Peak Performance

In 2015, the department will seek additional grant funds to expand programs, accelerate progress, and reduce reliance on city funds. Many national education-themed organizations and foundations provide grant funds for educational purposes, such as Lumina Foundation, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, and the NEA Foundation.

Continue to support the recommendations of the Columbus Education Commission and develop the public private partnership (PPP) to “lead the drive for educational excellence within Columbus, leveraging all available public and private support and participation.” The department will continue to work with community partners on strategies to create a successful PPP and hire a visionary leader.

The department will continue to work with Columbus City Schools to improve the quality of education and increase the number of children served. To that end, the director will work to increase the number of partnerships and collaborations between the district and department.

2015 BUDGET NOTES

The Education budget includes funding for 4 full-time and 1 part-time regular employees. In addition:

- A total of \$4.7 million is budgeted for the Early Start Initiative, an initiative aimed at preparing children for kindergarten.
- The Fast Path Program will continue, and is fully funded for 2015. The program is designed to identify and connect at-risk, underemployed, and unemployed adults to technical skills and employability training that will prepare them for the workplace.
- The Afterschool Grant Program funded at \$350,000 was transferred from Recreation and Parks and is included in Education's 2015 Budget. The program provides a safe after-school environment for Columbus kids to continue their education after the end of the school day.



Department Financial Summary by Area of Expense					
Fund	2012 Actual	2013 Actual	2014 Budget	2014 Projected	2015 Proposed
General Fund					
Personnel	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 299,937	\$ 225,215	\$ 516,372
Materials & Supplies	-	-	21,200	10,528	7,500
Services	-	-	6,112,460	5,485,220	5,621,525
General Fund Subtotal	-	-	6,433,597	5,720,963	6,145,397
Department Total	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 6,433,597	\$ 5,720,963	\$ 6,145,397

Department Personnel Summary					
Fund	FT/PT	2012 Actual	2013 Actual	2014 Budgeted	2015 Budgeted
General Fund					
Education	FT	0	0	4	4
	PT	0	0	0	1
Total		0	0	4	5

Operating Budget by Program				
Program	2014 Budget	2014 FTEs	2015 Proposed	2015 FTEs
Education	\$ 6,433,597	4	\$ 6,145,397	4
Department Total	\$ 6,433,597	4	\$ 6,145,397	4



2015 PROGRAM GUIDE

EDUCATION

To increase the overall educational attainment in the City of Columbus.