



To: Denver City Council

From: Public Education & Business Coalition

Re: Prosperity Denver

Dear Denver City Council Members,

The Public Education and Business Coalition (PEBC), a Denver-based nonprofit organization focused on professional development for educators, and the educator workforce in Denver and throughout Colorado, is in support of the proposed ordinance changes regarding the Prosperity Denver Fund.

The PEBC Teacher Residency is a Colorado Department of Education (CDE) approved alternative licensure program that provides individuals with a teaching credential in all grades and subject areas from Early Childhood Education through 12th grade. The main outcome of the PEBC Residency is high retention of teachers - 81% of PEBC Residency alumni are retained in the teaching profession 5 years after graduation, compared to a national average of 55% of teachers remaining in the profession after 5 years.

PEBC is a current partner with the Prosperity Denver Fund. Many participants in the PEBC Residency program are Denver residents and the proposed ordinance changes would provide additional opportunities for individuals in Denver to receive scholarship funding from PDF in order to achieve their goal of becoming an educator.

Specifically, increasing the age limit from 25 to 30, as well as updating the residency requirement, would have profoundly positive impacts for Denver residents seeking a teaching license through the Residency program. For the 2022-23 school year, PEBC Teacher Residency served 11 individuals who are current Denver residents, 36% of whom identify as BIPOC. Under the proposed ordinance changes, 100% of the Denver residents enrolled in the Residency this year would have been eligible to receive scholarships. Speaking to the age requirement change in particular - the Residency program is an attractive option to career changers between the ages of 25-30 who seek to earn a teaching credential as a 2nd career, particularly for those Denver residents for whom going back to college for an additional 4-year degree program would be unaffordable.

Furthermore, PEBC is undertaking additional data collection to ascertain how many individuals who currently live outside of Denver, but graduated from a Denver High School, would have been eligible for the scholarship under the proposed ordinance change related to residence, and we expect that number to add additional eligibility as well as PEBC identifies additional participants who graduated from a Denver high school and now live outside of the city.



The teacher shortage in Denver, and throughout Colorado, poses significant challenges for school districts and impacts all students. Expanding access to Prosperity Denver Fund's scholarships would help more individuals fulfill their goal of becoming a teacher via an evidence-based preparation program that has proven to retain teachers in the profession at a greater rate than the national average.

We ask for the city council's support of the proposed ordinance changes in order to continue to enhance the efficacy of Prosperity Denver Fund's scholarship program and crucially to provide increased access to career advancement and development for Denverites of all backgrounds.

With thanks,

Evan Kennedy
Senior Director, Strategic Initiatives & Public Policy
PEBC