



Walla Walla Center for
Children & Families

Samantha Bowen
Director of Early Learning & Family Engagement



- 10+ years of research and outreach all indicated the need for a comprehensive Early Learning Center
- Goal of coordinating resources to develop an aligned system of early learning services
- Input from community stakeholders, child care providers, and local agencies
- Survey of kindergarten teachers, WaKIDS assessment, kindergarten readiness
- WWPS Board of Directors reached unanimous decision to repurpose elementary school into regional early learning center in October 2019
- Opened 2020-2021 school year

History



Parent Lounge

- Designed space for families to meet, connect, work, and share ideas.
- "Living Room" of the Center.
- Features computers, WiFi access, books for families, toys and games for children, and information on community resources.



Developmentally Appropriate Playground



Walla Walla ELC
(Area 1)

NW073020-1

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Recruitment & Enrollment

- Collaborative preschool recruitment process and universal 'Interest Form'
- Coordinated outreach, referral, and placement to ensure the best fit and appropriateness of services based on the needs of each child and family
- Shared Enrollment Coordinator



Early Learning Programs

Head Start

- 7 classrooms serve up to 136 students

ECEAP (Operated by ESD 123)

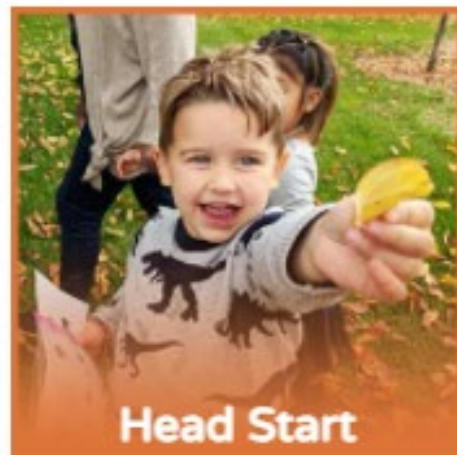
- 5 classrooms serve up to 94 students

Transitional Kindergarten

- 5 classrooms serve up to 90 students

Developmental Preschool

- 1 classroom serves up to 10 students



Eligibility Priorities



- Priority given to Head Start and ECEAP
- Students must be 4-years-old by August 31 and lack access to early learning opportunities for TK consideration
- Exhibit delayed language, social, or academic skills based on WWPS administered screening
- TK works in collaboration and does not adversely impact enrollment in community based preschool or child care programs
- Strong collaboration with early learning providers; includes monthly meetings and shared professional development
- Partner with child care to increase access to high-quality early learning and meet the unique needs of families



Inclusive Practices

WWPS Special Education Department supports all programs by providing a certified special education preschool teacher and special education para-educators

SPED students included in general education preschool classrooms with support of special education teacher and special education para-educators

Multiple placement options to serve children with disabilities in the **least restrictive environment** along side typically developing peers

General education preschool teachers have **direct access to special education staff** within the building to assist with individual children and setting up classroom environments for the success of all students



Special Education Students @ the CCF

	PK/TK Students Receiving SPED Services in Inclusive Setting	PK/TK Students Receiving SPED Services in Separate Setting
Nov 2018	14	41
Nov 2019	30	16
Nov 2020	20	9
Nov 2021	31	11

2018: Special Education students served in self-contained Developmental Preschool
2019: Began inclusion with Head Start/ECEAP
2020: Continued inclusion with Head Start & ECEAP, added Transitional Kindergarten
Enrollment impacted by pandemic
2021: Inclusion across all early learning programs at CCF





Centro familiar de Walla Walla
para niños y familias

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