

Community Connections

SPRING 2024



Mileage Club, pg 3

Washougal High School students graduate job-ready and college-ready

Shoug Shack serves up fresh meals, hands-on learning

On February 16, students at Washougal High School served up their first meals out of the Shoug Shack, the high school's new student-run food truck. The Shoug Shack is a student-run project, from conceptualization of the food truck to menu development, meal preparation, customer service, and more.

"I'm learning a lot about business, and how much effort and planning goes into running a small business," said Drake Leifsen, student in Advanced Culinary Arts at Washougal High School.

Despite budgetary constraints, the district has been able to maintain important job readiness programs like the food truck project by leveraging strong local community support and targeted funding sources like state CTE funding, grants, and community partnerships.



CTE Culinary Arts Instructor Alexandra Yost (left), Drake Leifsen (middle) and Jackson Lockard (right) prepare kabobs to serve out of the Shoug Shack.



Future Business Leaders of America Regional Conference

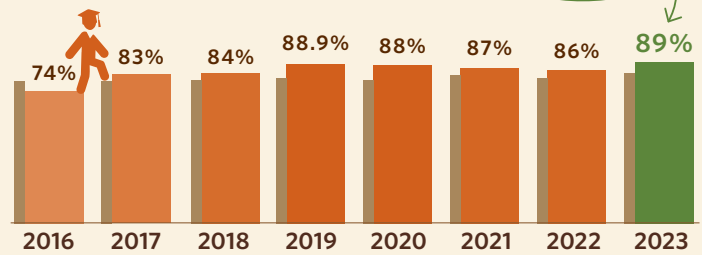
Left to right: Liberty Andelman, Emily Monroy-Perez, Xavier Pineda-Gutierrez, Madeline Brock, Jacob Larzalere, Angel Plaza, Carter Wilson, Laura Perez, Daniel Wood, Hannah Arnold, and Charlotte Cardona placed at the Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) State Leadership Conference and qualified for state. Students competed in subjects including public speaking, personal finance, business management, and more.

Career & College Readiness Stats

CLASS OF 2023 GRADUATION RATE

89%

Highest rate on record!



1,850 JOB READINESS CERTIFICATIONS

were earned by Washougal High School students during the 2022-23 school year!



A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Washougal Community,

As the spring flowers bloom and the weather warms up, I am looking forward to the many great events that take place in Washougal. From the WSF Stride Run, to drama productions and sporting events, and on to our High School's graduation, it is great to see so many people in Washougal come together in support of our students.



I am always grateful for the support of the Washougal community, and how our friends and neighbors lean in to help when there are challenges. The many people who participated in our budget survey, and in the in-person and virtual meetings to share feedback have been invaluable in addressing our budget challenges in a way that minimizes the disruption to students.

We are focused on working closely with our labor partners and providing support to staff members impacted by reductions, recognizing that these needed changes have a very real impact on people's livelihood. I am especially grateful for those who have been flexible and willing to share in the sacrifice and to those offering ideas about how we can make adjustments as far from the classroom as possible. These are not easy decisions, but I am confident that the values shared by the community, staff, parents, and students are reflected in the budget reduction plan.

Over the past three years, our district has focused on teacher collaboration through Professional Learning Communities. This important work, made possible by the early release time each Wednesday, has begun creating tremendous improvements in student achievement. We believe in our educators and they believe in our students and together, we are seeing amazing learning take place.

Over the past six years, Washougal has faced many challenges with grit and determination, and a steadfast belief in our students and staff. Working together, I am confident we can continue to rise above the challenges and continue the excellent work of knowing, nurturing, and challenging each student to Rise.

Sincerely,

Dr. Mary Templeton



SCHOOL BOARD CORNER


We extend a warm welcome to Ida Royer, who was elected in the November 2023 general election to serve on the Washougal School Board. Ida is a parent of a WSD student, and she brings a wealth of experience and a fresh perspective on making sure every student graduates prepared for their next steps.


Through the year, the board has spent time in classrooms with students and teachers, and we are proud of the great work happening in our schools. Student test scores are up, and our district's graduation rate is at 89%, the highest on record.


Our district, like many around the state, faces budget challenges. The Board has been advocating for legislative change at the state level, prioritizing fully funding Special Education; student transportation; staffing allocation; and materials, supplies, and operating costs.


Our legislators want to hear from you, those who are impacted by the funding shortfall. While the board and district leadership can provide the facts about our funding challenges, the stories that students, parents, and our staff share with the legislature are what will motivate them to take action. The legislature must do its paramount duty, to fully fund education, and ensure a bright future for every student. Learn more about our legislative advocacy, and how to contact your legislators, on the Washougal School District budget webpage.

As always, we are grateful for the ongoing support and engagement of our Washougal community. Your involvement is crucial to our success, and we encourage you to stay connected with us as we move forward.

 **ANNUAL NOTIFICATIONS**
Scan for School Improvement Plans, Criteria for Staff Evaluations and other required annual parent notifications.



 **2024-25 CALENDAR**
September 3 will be the first day of school next year. A printable calendar is on the WSD website in English, Russian and Spanish.



WASHOUGAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

#WashougalRising


SUPERINTENDENT: Dr. Mary Templeton


BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Jim Cooper (District 1), Angela Hancock (District 2), Sadie McKenzie (District 3), Ida Royer (District 4), and Chuck Carpenter (District 5)

NONDISCRIMINATION STATEMENT: The Washougal School District does not discriminate in any programs or activities on the basis of sex, race, creed, religion, color, national origin, age, veteran or military status, sexual orientation, gender expression, gender identity, disability, or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following employees have been designated to handle questions and complaints of alleged discrimination: Civil Rights Coordinator: Aaron Hansen, 4855 Evergreen Way, Washougal WA 98671, (360) 954-3050; Title IX Officer: Aaron Hansen, 4855 Evergreen Way, Washougal WA 98671, (360) 954-3050; Section 504 Coordinator: Connor McCroskey, 4855 Evergreen Way, Washougal WA 98671, (360) 954-3020.

Volunteers help make great things happen in Washougal schools

Our amazing volunteers have been up to a lot this spring, and they can always use help! Whether you are interested in supporting an event, coordinating educational activities, or helping a teacher in the classroom, there's a place for you.

 **GET INVOLVED!**
Learn more about volunteering at Washougal School District. Background check is required.



Boosters volunteers donate books to Gause library

This year, Gause Boosters volunteers organized a fundraiser to replace lost, stolen or damaged books from the Gause Elementary library. Booster groups support Washougal schools to help meet a wide range of needs, such as providing students with access to a wide range of reading materials.

“Our Boosters group really loves supporting the Gause library,” said Gause Boosters President Kelli Eldridge. “It’s really important to us to see new books coming in and to see kids checking them out.”



Chuck Carpenter coaches 5th grade band students

Washougal school board member Chuck Carpenter has been a volunteer band tutor in Washougal schools for the past decade. He helps 5th grade band students at Gause, Hathaway and Columbia River Gorge Elementary to practice their band skills and become more comfortable with their instruments. Through supportive one-on-one mentorship, Carpenter encourages students to explore and grow in their musical journey.



Washougal Panther Band Boosters call for volunteers

The Washougal Panther Band Boosters is a dedicated group of volunteers supporting Washougal students in band programs across the district. They assist band students during dress rehearsals, supervise after school practice, hang posters, and more. Band Boosters also fundraise for band program supplies by selling concessions at sporting events and organizing bake sales.

The Washougal Panther Band Boosters are seeking more volunteers to support band programs. To learn more, email Leann Wilkins at washougalpantherbandboosters@gmail.com.



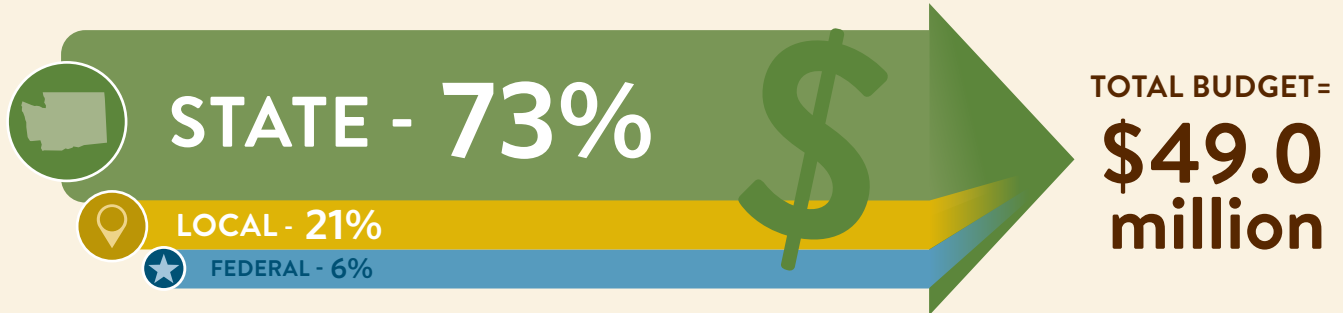
CRGE Booster volunteers inspire kids to be physically active with Mileage Club

Columbia River Gorge Elementary (CRGE) Booster volunteers Sadie McKenzie and Annie Thomas facilitate Mileage Club, a weekly running club for students at CRGE. McKenzie is also a member of the Washougal School District school board.

Programs like the Columbia River Gorge Boosters Mileage Club help Washougal students to discover a passion for exercise. “It’s amazing to see what these kids accomplish. I volunteer because you get to make a real difference in students’ lives,” said McKenzie.

2022-23 Financial Report

WHERE THE MONEY COMES FROM



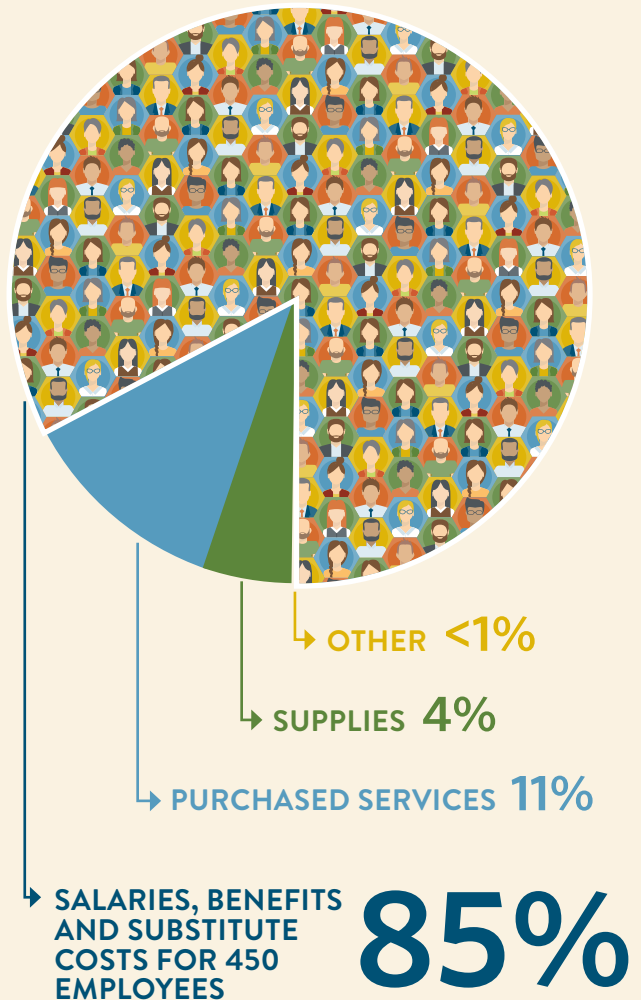
2022-23 REVENUES*

STATE FUNDS - 73% Per pupil funding. Basic Education and Categorical Funding like CTE LAP, Food Service, Transportation Operations Funding and State Special Ed	\$35,779,218
FEDERAL FUNDS - 6% Special Ed, Title I, Title II, Title III, Title IV, Food Service, USDA Commodities, ESSER III	\$2,806,394
LOCAL NON-TAX FUNDS - 2% Facility Rentals, community education, donations, food service payments etc.	\$1,009,690
LOCAL LEVY FUNDS - 19% Educational Programs & Operations Levy, Technology Levy	\$9,459,036
TOTAL 2022-23 REVENUE	\$49,054,339

2022-23 EXPENDITURES*

BASIC EDUCATION - 50% Most salaries & benefits, materials, professional development	\$26,069,502
FEDERAL STIMULUS - 0.7% ESSER I, II and III COVID-19 related expenditures	\$359,565
SPECIAL EDUCATION - 16% Educating students with special needs	\$8,466,920
CAREER & TECHNICAL ED. - 5% Middle and high school career and college readiness	\$2,455,322
OTHER INSTRUCTION - 5% Title I, Learning Assistance, bilingual programs, highly capable program	\$2,475,014
TRANSFERS OUT - <1% One-time, long-range capital facilities planning	\$50,000
SUPPORT SERVICES - 23% Purchased services and other operational expenses	\$11,903,948
TOTAL 2022-23 EXPENDITURES	\$51,789,273

WHERE THE MONEY GOES



*Our fiscal year begins September 1 and ends August 31. Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding.

LEARN MORE AND ADVOCATE FOR SCHOOL FUNDING



While we are thankful that state legislators made some adjustments to funding for special education, paraeducators, and materials this year, the state's investment in education is not keeping up with costs. Please join us in advocating for the legislature to fully fund schools. Info about how to contact your legislators and share your story is on our budget webpage.

Budget Corner: Responding to a \$3M budget shortfall for 2024-25

Like other school districts across the state, Washougal is facing a budget shortfall. In our district, we have a projected budget shortfall of \$3 million for the 2024-2025 school year. Our budget challenges are caused by several factors which include the state underfunding education, inflation, declining enrollment, and a levy rollback required for next year.

In response to the projected budget shortfall, district leadership began making reductions in this year's spending, including reducing school budgets, implementing a hiring freeze, and salary concessions by administrative staff.

Community input guides planned reductions

District leadership gathered feedback from our community through:

- two Board Listening Tours
- four Superintendent Roundtable events
- a community survey that gathered 750 responses from students and their families, our staff, and the community

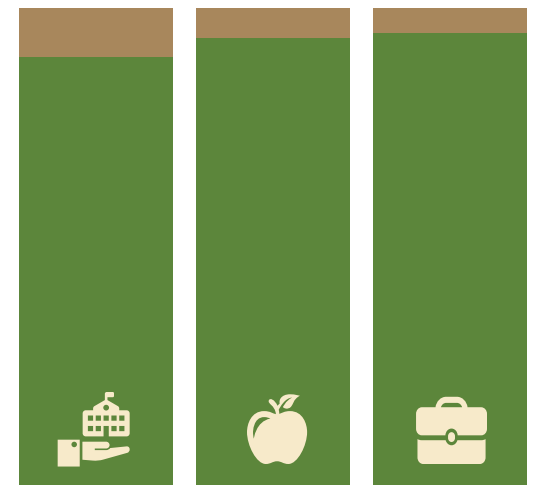
The survey results include themes around reducing more from administrative and district office expenses, and asking the district to consider program reductions, office consolidations, and maintaining student programs.

District leadership used the feedback to guide development of a planned reduction that has the greatest percentage of reductions in administrative pay, support, and staff, and maintains excellent programs for our students.

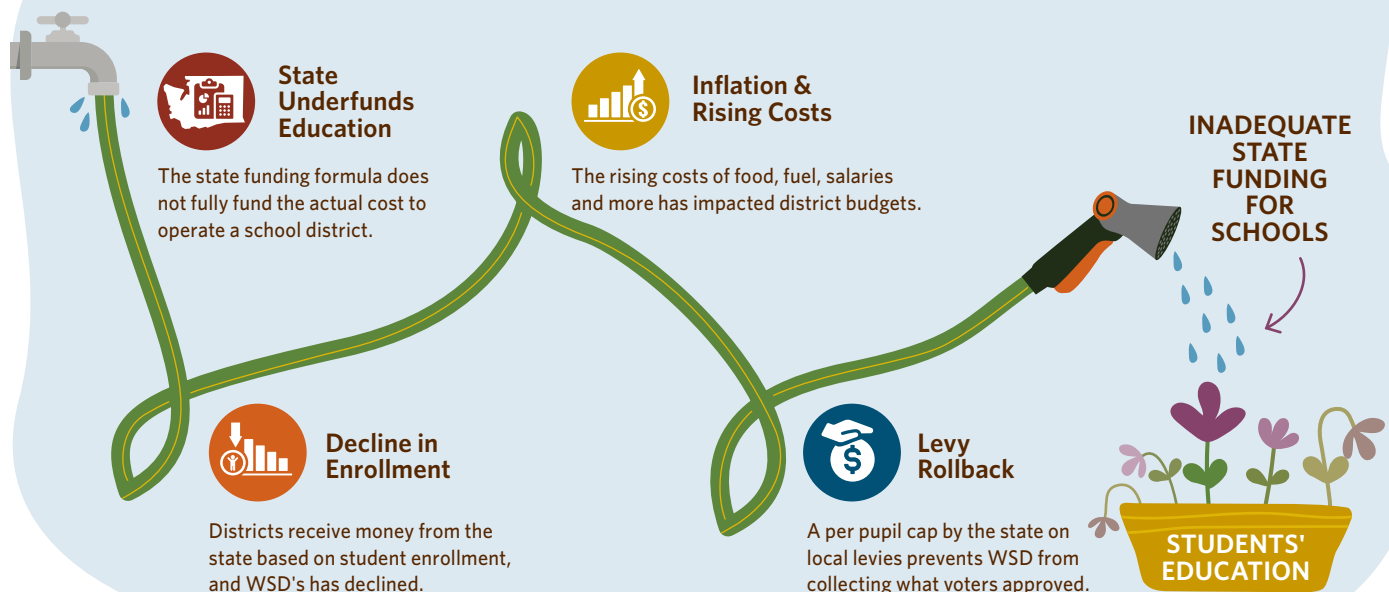
ROUND 1 REDUCTION SUMMARY

Admin Pay, Support & Staff Reductions	Certified Staff Reductions	Classified Staff Reductions
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10.4%	6.4%	5.3%
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THE SOURCES OF THE BUDGET SHORTFALL





Arts and athletics shine across schools in Washougal, thanks to local levy funding



- 1 Elementary students Aliyah (left) and Alabama (right) participate in Drama Camp at Washougal High School.
- 2 Deacon Nichols (left) placed 5th in the men's varsity long jump and 6th in the 100 meter race. Will Cooper (right) placed 1st in the triple jump and 9th in the long jump at the competition.
- 3 Family views the student art on display at the annual Washougal Youth Arts Month community gallery.
- 4 CCMS students Charlotte Murray, Cheyenne Jackson, Jacob Wall, Eli Rish, Graden Johnson (left to right) participated in the 2024 North County Honor Band.

- 5 Heather, student at Cape Horn-Skye Elementary, loves to creatively use paint to express her ideas.
- 6 WHS students Breyon Morris, Shane Andelman, Avri Kauffman, Jacob Kettleson, Lucas Sanders, Tanner Lowe (left to right), Zack Nelson and Angel Garibay-Villa (not pictured) performed in the WMEA All-State Symphony on February 15-17.
- 7 JMS students Rebekah Nelson, Deaglan McGrath, Thor Richardson, Amberlin McBee, Kylie Woodruff, and Nia Black (left to right) performed in the North County Honor Band this winter.



Jemtegaard student leaders create weekly video announcements

At Jemtegaard Middle School, a group of students from Mrs. Kellar's leadership class are creating weekly video announcements to keep their peers informed about school events and news. "I am the filmer, editor and one of the actors in the weekly video announcements," said Layla, 7th grade student at JMS. "My favorite part is definitely adding the animations to the final product."

"I like leading and having that chance to really show everybody what to do and how to be a good person," said Caleb, 7th grade student at JMS.



Left to right: JMS student leaders Layla Branch, Roanan Whitmore-Grado, Alejandro Pena-Contreras, Simon Pahl, Ibzán Ortiz-Barriera, Caleb Scott

2022-23 District Report Data

STATE REPORT CARD

Attendance rates, student test scores by grade level and more can be found online in the OSPI Report Card.



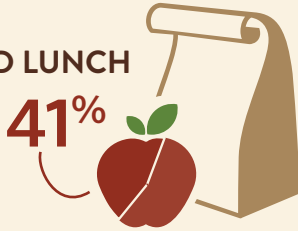
Known...

STUDENT ENROLLMENT

2,877 as of Oct. 2022

FREE/REDUCED LUNCH

Percentage of students who qualify: **41%**

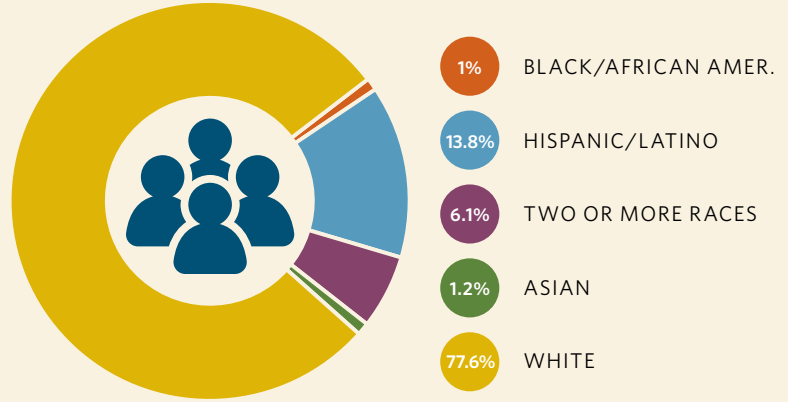


TITLE I SCHOOLS

Hathaway Elementary, Gause Elementary, Cape Horn-Skye Elementary and Columbia River Gorge Elementary

STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

as of Oct. 2022



LESS THAN 1% AMERICAN INDIAN/ALASKA NATIVE & NATIVE HAWAIIAN/PACIFIC ISLANDER

Nurtured...

STUDENT : TEACHER RATIO

Average number of students per instructional staff member by grade.

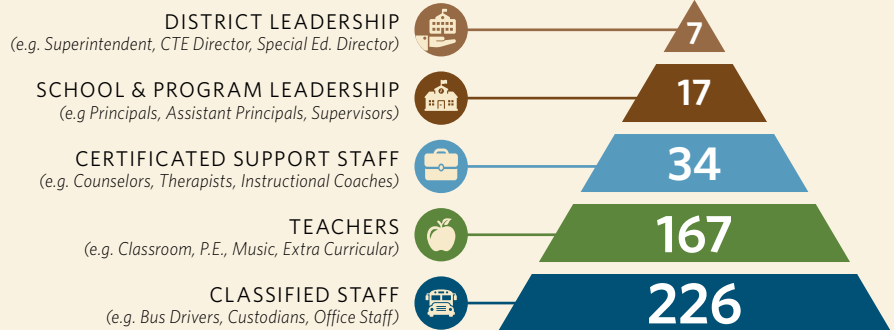
K-1 **18:1**
2-3 **17:1**
4-5 **19:1**
6-8 **21:1**
9-12 **22:1**



Includes classroom teachers as well as specialists, such as art, music, P.E. and library instructors.

BREAKDOWN OF DISTRICT EMPLOYEES

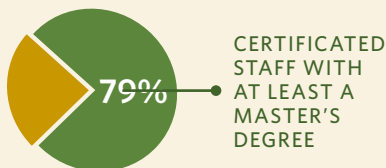
as of Feb. 2023



Challenged to Rise!

STAFF QUALIFICATIONS

- 201 CERTIFICATED STAFF
- 13 AVERAGE YEARS OF TEACHING EXPERIENCE



For more info on the professional qualifications of your student's teacher, please contact your school principal.

OUTPERFORMING THE STATE

Washougal students outperformed the state average in 82% of the subjects and grades tested (14 out of 17).



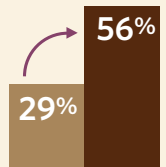
TEACHER COLLABORATION

The Science team at CCMS outperformed the state average of 43% by 31 percentage points.



ELA ELEMENTARY SUCCESS

Hathaway saw a year-to-year increase of 27 percentage points in 3rd grade ELA scores.



OVERALL IMPROVEMENT

Washougal saw year-to-year improvement in 70% of the subjects and grades tested.





#WashougalRising
www.washougal.k12.wa.us
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Note: As part of our response to the budget shortfall, we will only publish the newsletter twice each year (Spring & Fall).



Now enrolling for fall!

TRANSITION TO KINDERGARTEN

Washougal's free all-day program for four-year-olds is open for enrollment for Fall 2024.

Eligible students must...

- Be four years old by August 31, 2024 to participate,
- Reside within the Washougal School District boundary, and
- Not otherwise be identified for participation in the Head Start and/or ECEAP preschool programs.

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Washougal's elementary schools are welcoming new students for the 2024-2025 school year.

Is your child turning five by September 1, 2024? Then it's time to register for Kindergarten!

Spring Kindergarten Roundups

- Wednesday, May 15 from 4:30-5:30pm
- Held at every elementary school
- Future Kindergarten students are invited to come to school and meet the staff

Visit our website for more information and to register:
washougal.k12.wa.us/new-student-registration

