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# **PreK Expansion Update**

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# Update on Facility Improvement Process



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# Facility Update

- **April:** Request for Architectural Qualifications
  - 8 Firms submitted responses
- **July:** 3 Firms selected to submit proposals and interviewed by Committee
- **Early August:** Architectural Firm selected
- **Late August:** Request for Qualifications for Construction Manager at Risk
- **September/October:** Staff and Community Engagement



**The District's goal is to collaborate with Shaker's early childhood program providers to offer all preschool age students with an affordable, high-quality early childhood experience.**



# Changing Our Approach to Early Childhood Education



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# Changing Our Approach

- Legacy Model
  - Emphasis on compliance with special education law
  - Set number of seats for students with special needs (services required)
  - Limited number of seats for “typical peers”

# Changing Our Approach

- Trends
  - Currently experiencing increased demand for full day programs
  - Full day vs half day impacts the total number of potential seats available
  - May reach 300 students at Ludlow, depending on parent choice of full-day vs. half-day

# Changing Our Approach

- Future Model
  - Community-based
  - Complies with special education law
  - Serves more children
  - A greater range of program options for students with disabilities

**What are we doing to create a  
positive and logical transition  
from 2023 to 2025?**



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# 2023-24 School Year

- Hired a full-time Early Childhood Coordinator
- Slight increase in existing Onaway PreK classroom student numbers
- Continue to maintain student numbers per classroom below the state maximums

# 2023-24 School Year - Tentative

- 120 expected seats
- 52 IEP seats Total
- 68 peer models Total
- 17 seats reserved for incoming students with special needs (due to Special Education Law)
- 12 students provided off-site Special Education services

# 2023-24 School Year Tasks

- Develop and implement differentiated communication and outreach strategies in an effort to reach all families
- Goal is for Ludlow student demographics to mirror the K-12 population
- Gather information from stakeholders (kindergarten parents, PreK parents, etc.)
- Continue to explore potential funding sources

# 2024-2025 School Year Concepts

- Possibilities:
  - Add one full-day, general education PreK class at Onaway (18 students), and
  - Add one full-day general education PreK class at an elementary school other than Onaway (18 students), and
  - Add one full-day, co-taught PreK class at an elementary school other than Onaway (17 students)

# Let's go, Ludlow!

## 2025



# 2025-2026 School Year

- **August 2025:** Ludlow will open for PreK
- Planning to serve 3- and 4-year-olds
- Students with Individualized Education Plans and those without
- Full-day and half-day options
- Examining the possibility of offering before- and after-care, including during the day

# 2025-2026 School Year

- Tiered tuition structure
- Examining acceptance of Child Care Assistance funds
- Commitment to eliminate tuition cost as a barrier
- May reach 300 students, depending on parent choice of full-day vs. half-day

# Frequently Asked Questions

- What about the other providers in the community?
  - Our goal is collaboration, not competition. Meetings have begun regarding collaborating. Potential areas include curriculum, kindergarten readiness and professional learning.

# Frequently Asked Questions

- How will the tuition be determined?
  - A sliding scale will be developed and scholarships will be available.
  - A variety of factors will be considered, including the tuition of other programs in the community. The District typically has higher personnel costs due to higher salaries. The tuition is not expected to cover all of the District costs for PreK.

# Frequently Asked Questions

- Why not Universal PreK (UPK) now?
  - UPK is a specific, county funded, program. Numerous UPK sites exist in various areas of the county. The District is examining the possibility of applying when funding becomes available.
  - As with most grant funds, stipulations, restrictions and regulations apply. Programs are not fully funded via UPK.



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