



Exploring Wrap-Around Childcare



Reminder: Board's charge for the Task Force does allow it to evaluate "whether 4-Year-Old Kindergarten should be included in all elementary schools," but does not cover wrap-around care.



What is Wrap-Around Child Care?

- **Wrap around child care in Wisconsin 4K programs provides care for children before or after their 4K class.**
- **These programs are designed to extend the learning from the 4K program and provide a safe, supervised environment for children to play and grow.**





What are the Benefits of Wrap-Around Child Care?

- **Continuity:** Children can stay in a familiar setting with the same rules and routines.
- **Convenience:** Parents don't need to worry about transportation or multiple drop-off locations.
- **Flexibility:** Parents can stay at work or school because their children are in a center that can provide care in the morning, afternoon, or evening.
- DPI guidance about the benefits of a 4K Community Approach:

[Click here.](#)



Current Options for 4K with Wrap-Around Care in the Wausau School District

- 4K Community Approach - Wausau locations:
 - MountainView Montessori
 - Newman Catholic - St. Michael
 - Wausau Child Care
 - Woodson YMCA





The Logistics: What is Needed to Offer Wrap-Around Care?

- **Child Care Licensing:** Facilities must comply with Wisconsin Department of Children and Families (DCF) licensing standards. This includes ensuring facilities match state requirements.
- **Ratio and Supervision Requirements for staffing:** Appropriate staff to child ratios and trained personnel.
- **Qualified Staff:** Early childhood educators and support staff trained in child development.
- **Professional Development:** Continuous training



The Logistics:

What is Needed to Offer Wrap-Around Care?

- **Facilities and Space**
 - **Safe and Age- Appropriate Environment:** Designated areas for extended hours, including indoor and outdoor spaces that support learning and play.
- **Extended Hours and Scheduling**
 - **Coordination with School Schedules:** Coordinate/synchronize with school calendars and holiday breaks
 - Care options available before and after traditional “school” hours, accommodating working parents



The Logistics:

What is Needed to Offer Wrap-Around Care?

- **Funding and Financial Support**
 - **State and federal funding:** Access to grants, subsidies, and other financial aid through programs like Wisconsin Shares.
 - State school funding for 4K does not cover the cost of wrap-around child care.
- **Curriculum and Program Alignment**
 - **Integrated curriculum:** Extended preschool learning objectives into wrap-around care.
 - **Enrichment activities:** Structured activities including art, physical play, and social development.



The Logistics:

What is Needed to Offer Wrap-Around Care?

- **Community Partnerships**
 - **Collaboration with Local Organizations:** Engage with community-based organizations, nonprofits, and early learning centers.
 - **Partnerships:** Explore partnerships with local child care centers and businesses to provide funding and other resources.



Comparison: School District Offering Wrap-Around Care Through a Community Partner vs. Running it Themselves

Category	Community Partner Model	District-Run Model
Management and Operations	Community partner manages day-to-day operations, staffing, and logistics.	District is fully responsible for staffing, scheduling, and program administration.
Staffing	Staff is hired and trained by the community partner, following their standards and requirements.	District recruits, hires, and trains staff, including compliance with school-based hiring processes.
Cost Structure	Typically funded through contracts or shared costs, may include fee-for-service models or grants.	Directly funded by the school district through its budget.
Quality Control	District sets standards and oversees the partnership but has less direct control over daily operations.	Full control over program quality, curriculum, and staff performance.
Flexibility	More flexible; partner may offer additional resources or specialized services.	Less flexible; bound by district regulations, school schedules, and union agreements.

Comparison: School District Offering Wrap-Around Care Through a Community Partner vs. Running it Themselves

Category	Community Partner Model	District-Run Model
Regulatory Compliance	Partner ensures compliance with child care licensing and state regulations.	District must manage licensing, health, and safety regulations internally.
Community Integration	Leverages community networks and resources; often has established connections to family services.	District-based program may have fewer community partnerships, but can foster strong school-family relationships.
Curriculum Alignment	Partner may have its own curriculum, but should coordinate with the district's preschool learning goals.	Direct alignment with district's preschool curriculum, ensuring continuity in child development continues.
Financial Risk	Financial risk is shared or mostly held by the partner.	District assumes full financial responsibility, including potential losses if the program is under-enrolled.
Scalability	Easier to adjust through multiple community partners, with quicker adaptation to demand.	Changes to enrollment may require additional district resources and longer timelines for expansion.
Parental Perception	Parents may appreciate diverse services and community-focused approach, but may see less continuity with the school.	Parents may value the district-run model for consistency, safety, and familiarity with school systems.

A photograph of a teacher and five young children sitting in a circle on a large, colorful rug made of interlocking puzzle pieces. The teacher, a woman with glasses and a yellow sweater, is at the top of the circle. The children are of various ethnicities and are all looking towards the center where their hands are stacked. The background shows a wooden floor and some art supplies in the top right corner.

Questions?