



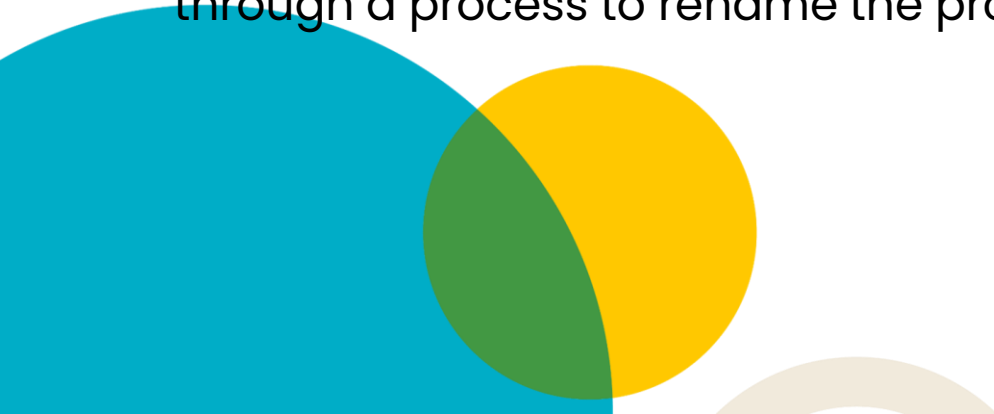
Renaming SoWashCo Schools' Transition Program

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April 9, 2026

The Why



- Starting in the 2026–27 school year, SoWashCo Schools will open a new facility for our Transition Program, serving students 18–22 years old.
- As the two current Transition Program sites (Next Step and Pathways) come together in a new building, staff has worked through a process to rename the program.

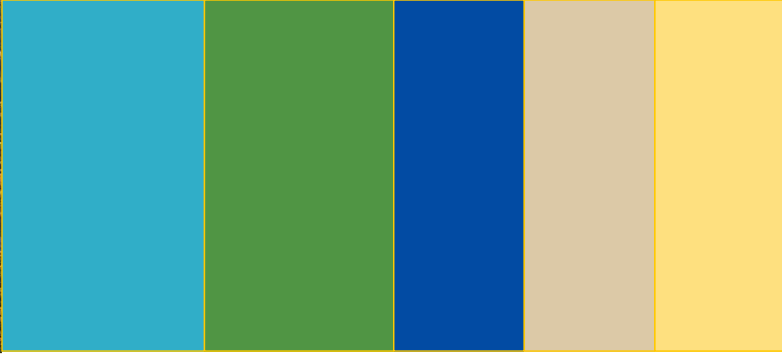


The Process

- A Naming Steering Committee was formed with Transition program leadership, staff from both the Next Step and Pathways sites (licensed and non-licensed staff) and members of the Communications team.
- We also gathered feedback and brainstormed ideas during an all staff Professional Development day that was focused on the transition program's strengths and identity as the two sites come together in a new space next year.
- The Steering Committee met several times between May 2025 and March 2026.

The Process

- Began with a list of unacceptable names, determined by program leadership, staff and best practices.
 - The new program would not be named after a person
 - Agreed we did not want to continue with Next Step or Pathways
 - Agreed not to include the words Institute, Academy or Transition
- Our all staff brainstorming session ended with nearly a 75 ideas that were grouped into themes, reworked and discussed.
- The Steering Committee eventually worked the list of ideas down to four final names that everyone was comfortable with on some level for a vote.
- Used mood boards for final discussion that was followed by ranked-choice voting to bring a short list of final recommendations to the Executive Cabinet for feedback and additional discussion.



Headwaters



Beginning, direction, momentum, growth over time, rivers choose their path, rivers adapt and are ever changing, district is located between two major rivers

Our Recommendation

SoWashCo Headwaters Life Skills Program



Next Steps

- Request approval of the new Transition Program name as: SoWashCo Headwaters Life Skills Program at the April School Board Business Meeting.
- Working with a new Branding Steering Committee to create a logo and other branding materials for the program.
- This process will include staff and student voice.
- Signage and branding will be included on the new building set to open in Fall 2026.

The background of the slide is white and decorated with numerous circles in three colors: dark blue, teal, and beige. Some circles are solid, while others are overlapping, creating a pattern of different shades and textures. The word "Questions?" is centered in a bold, dark blue font.

Questions?