Community Update | Spring 2026



Inside: District Construction News · Enrollment Update · NEW: Full-Time Online K-8 Learning Option

DISTRICT NEWS

Construction & Future Projects



OHS Music Space



OHS Technical Education Shop



OHS Science Lab & Classroom

Projects from the 2022 capital referendum at the middle and high schools are nearing completion. OMS is now a state-of-the-art facility and a cornerstone of our community. At OHS, work is wrapping up on updated classrooms, science labs, and locker rooms, added parking, dance studio and fieldhouse upgrades, and expanded music and tech ed spaces.

Thanks to careful planning and smart investing, the district had approximately $10 million remaining for additional improvements at the high school. In January, the Board of Education approved a new phase of projects, including further classroom updates, upgraded lighting in the Performing Arts Center, and new weight and athletic training rooms. Construction is expected to begin this summer and continue through fall.

These improvements will positively impact students, and therefore our community, for generations - none of which would have been possible without you. Thank you for your support and investment in our schools. The future of Onalaska is bright because of it.

OMS and OHS will hold open houses as part of Celebrate Onalaska on Saturday, June 27 from 1-3 p.m.

Other Hilltopper Headlines

- The School District of Onalaska received an "Exceeds Expectations" rating by the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction in its latest round of public school district accountability report cards. Onalaska High School had the 12th highest score (top 2%) in the entire state compared to other grades 9-12 public (non-charter) high schools.
- The district has been recognized as a **"Top Workplace" in the area of Education** by meeting high benchmarks in employee experiences, support, growth, and empowerment through a confidential staff survey administered by an outside company. The district also received distinguishments in the areas of Compensation & Benefits, Professional Development, Purpose & Values, and Employee Well-Being. Want to join our award-winning organization? Current job openings can be found at: **onalaskaschools.com/jobs**

EDUCATION INDUSTRY TOP WORK PLACES MAR 2026

your CLIMB starts here

ENROLLMENT

Planning to attend the School District of Onalaska for the first time this fall?
We're almost ready for you! Our enrollment process is expected to open in mid-May following a brief delay due to system updates. Please check our website for the latest information, and reach out with any questions. Thank you for your patience, and **welcome to the district!**

Open enrollment window open until April 30, 2026

If you're reading this, you either 1) live in our boundary, 2) already open enroll in one of our schools, or 3) received this from someone else. With that in mind, we ask you to continue sharing your experiences as a district family. Like many districts across the country, we face declining enrollment as fewer children live in our area. In recent years, **open enrollment** - a program that allows students to attend schools outside their home district - has helped us close that gap. Here in Onalaska, we are proud to have positive open enrollment, meaning more non-resident students attend our schools than resident students leaving for another district. **This year, nearly 1 in 5 of our students open enroll from another district.**

The open enrollment application process, which begins through the WI Department of Public Instruction, is open now through April 30, 2026. Families may still apply after that date, though the process becomes more tedious. More information about open enrollment is available on our website. Thank you for helping our district grow and reach more families!

All day, every day 4K Preschool is here

The School District of Onalaska is now offering all day, every day 4K Preschool beginning in the 2026-27 school year at all three elementary schools. Times will align with the K-5 schedule at each building. Part-time programming through the district will remain available at select community partner sites. Visit onalaskaschools.com/4K for more information.



A brand new full-time online option for K-8 students

This fall, the School District of Onalaska will open the **Onalaska Online Academy** - a new full-time virtual public charter school for K-8 students in Wisconsin. The school will offer families a flexible, customized, and supportive academic environment where students can learn at their own pace, on their own schedules, and in their own homes. More information coming soon. For timely updates, fill out the form using the link below and check that you are interested in more information on our "full-time virtual learning option for K-8 students."

You can sign up to receive an email and/or text notification once enrollment opens as well as optional 4K Preschool and Onalaska Online Academy updates here: onalaskaschools.com/enrollment

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Employment Nondiscrimination

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