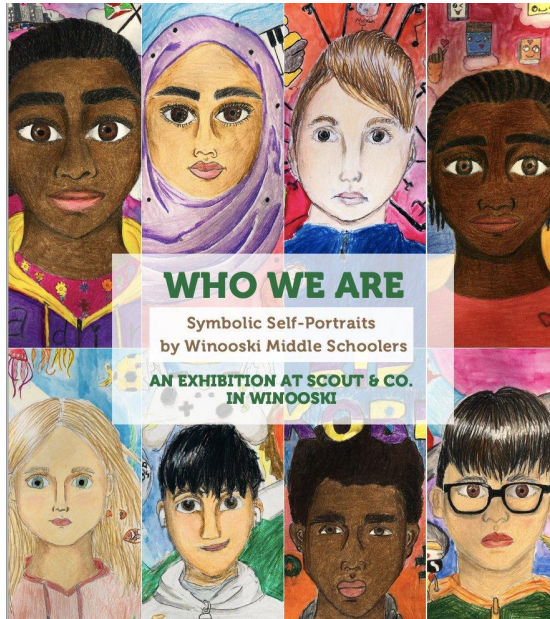


Winooski Schools: PreK Challenges & Opportunities



House Human Services Committee
April 7, 2023

Winooski School District Enrollment



- Total Enrollment = 796
 - PreK-5 = 425
 - 6-8 = 141
 - 9-12 = 212
- 28% of students receive special education services
- 35% of students identify as Multilingual Learners (ML)
- 61% of Winooski students identify as BIPOC
- 56% of students live in low-income households

WSD Pre-K Enrollment

	WSD Program (3 hrs day/4 days a week - AM & PM)	Partner Programs 23 (Full Day)*	Total
Total Students	72 (69%)	32 (31%)	104 (70% of eligible)
ML Learners	38 (86%)	6 (14%)	44
Special Education Eligible	20 (87%)	3 (13%)	23
Low-Income	50 (81%)	12 (19%)	62
BIPOC	47 (82%)	10 (18%)	57



WSD Pre-K Challenges

- WSD is unable to offer full-day programming due to financial constraints associated with the current ADM
- This means that the most vulnerable 3 & 4 yr olds in Winooski are not receiving as much high quality intentional, play-based learning as they need
- WSD multilingual families rely on communications support from our multilingual team, which is not provided by partner programs
- WSD families need transportation, which the district provides for our program, but is not provided by partner programs

WSD Pre-K Challenges

- The only prequalified program within Winooski is a WSD-affiliated Head Start program
- The partnership with Head Start is made possible due to significant collaboration and in-kind support from WSD, including space, staff, and food service
- No other partner programs operate in Winooski, despite multiple, yearslong efforts to collaborate to bring partners to Winooski
- Head Start has struggled to staff its Winooski programs this year, so WSD has had to hire teachers to keep that classroom open to fill in for Head Start staff
- Head Start has notified us that it intends to terminate the partnership effective next year, which will impact 30 students

WSD Pre-K Opportunities

- WSD has a deep commitment to supporting high quality early learning opportunities
- As part of its capital project, which was completed this year, WSD now has four preschool classrooms that meet all licensing requirements
- WSD has a Director of Early Learning dedicated to ensuring high quality programming and support for families of young children
- As of this year, we are operating our own PreK program, although it is limited to 3 hours a day/4 days a week for 2 sessions, one in the AM and one in the PM.

WSD Pre-K Opportunities

- Full ADM would allow WSD to provide equitable access to full-day PreK for all four year olds in all four classrooms
- Full ADM, coupled with the Act 127 weight adjustments, would provide WSD with sufficient resources to deliver high quality full day programming that is responsive to the needs of our diverse population
- This full-day programming would provide all Winooski four year olds, regardless of their demographic background or unique learning needs, with access to full time licensed early childhood educators, who are supervised by licensed administrators and have access to professional development and planning time per our negotiated agreement

Contact Information

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