



Walla Walla Public Schools Preschool Programs

Head Start ♦ ECEAP ♦ Developmental

Diana Evenson, Preschool Director

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Date: May 25, 2017

To: Walla Walla Public Schools Board of Directors

From: Diana Evenson, Preschool Director

Subject: Funding Year 2017 Head Start Grant Application and Supporting Documents

Dear Board of Directors:

On Tuesday, May 30th, I will be presenting the school board with the Head Start Continuation Grant Application for funding year 2017. This will be for the third year of a five-year grant cycle. Preparation for the grant application included conducting a Community Needs Assessment and Program Self-Assessment, and then analyzing the data and feedback gathered to update School Readiness Goals and Strategic Planning Program Goals. Based on these, we were able to set the 2017-2018 Program Calendar and Training and Technical Assistance Plan.

The amount of the Head Start grant for the 2017 funding year is currently \$1,073,165, which includes an allocation of \$18,409 for training and technical assistance, as mandated by the Office of Head Start. This grant will provide funding to serve 136 students for 3.25 hours per day, Monday through Thursday, for 138 days.

As you are aware, proposed state budget legislation may have a severe impact on our program. After reviewing various options for feasibility in conjunction with our Head Start Regional Office Specialists, Superintendent Smith, Assistant Superintendent Chris Gardea, and Fiscal Officer Nancy Taylor, we presented the parent Policy Council with two scenarios, one which drastically reduced busing services, and one which made significant, but not total, cuts to extra classroom support. The Council felt that parent volunteers could bolster classroom support but recognized that they would not be able to contribute to transportation, so felt confident that budget dollars should remain dedicated to that area.

Staffing reductions approved by Policy Council as part of the grant application include 1) a reduction of work days, from 207 to 199, for two program coordinators and seven family advocates, 2) a reduction from four to three support para-educators, and a reduction for these positions from 7 hours, 189 days per year to 5.5 hours, 154 days per year and 3) a reduction in busing from 4 mid-day routes to 3 mid-day routes.

Thank you all for your gracious support of Early Learning and to the most vulnerable children and families in our community!

Sincerely,

Diana Evenson, Preschool Director