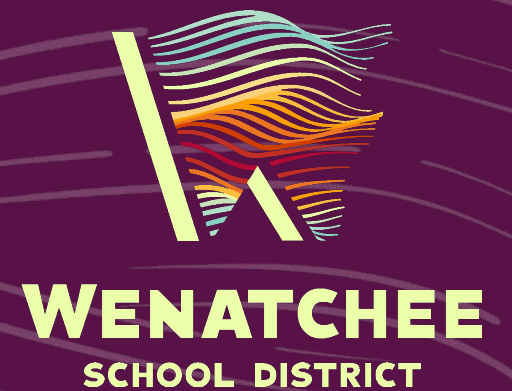


Transitions Program

April 22, 2025



WSD Transitions Program Overview

- Wenatchee Valley Community Transitions (WVCT) is a community-based transition program in the Wenatchee School District for students with disabilities.
- Serves students aged 18-22 in the Wenatchee Valley.
- Participants engage in activities to become active, engaged, and prepared community members.
- Optional continuation of educational programming for students on Individualized Education Plans (IEP).
- IEP Team must recommend continued services for the student.
- Focus on helping students develop transitional skills for success in the workplace or home.



Transitions Program Overview



Concerns with Current Program Location

- The program's current location in two portables at WestSide is temporary and cannot accommodate the growing number of staff and students in the program.
- Students require increased bathroom space and ADA accessibility, which cannot be met at the current location without incurring excessive expense.
- The need for additional bathroom space and accommodations reduces the area available for instruction.
- The use of portables presents challenges with new construction.



Why the program has grown

- Increased enrollment for the 2024/25 school year
- The creation of high-quality career development opportunities and partnerships for our students
- Changes in state age requirements for Transitions Students, increasing the age limit from 21 to 22. This change has allowed seven more students to remain in the program for the 24/25 school year
- Anticipated additional growth in future years as IEP teams increasingly choose this program for their students



Thoughtful Consideration of Space at Columbia

- The district is committed to determining how to best utilize the former Columbia Elementary School building to expand programs and serve Wenatchee School District students
- We also committed to taking the 24-25 school year to study the internal needs of our programs prioritizing WSD students, families and areas of growth.
- In January, it was decided to relocate Valley Academy to Columbia, which will occupy most of the building.
- The west wing remains available for occupancy (Approx 6 classrooms) at this time



Columbia West Wing

WSD Goals for Columbia Elementary

- Use the facility for WSD programming
- Use the building to grow enrollment
- Provide space for indoor gym and facility use for the district and user groups
- The facility will continue to be a community asset
- The facility will continue to be well maintained
- The facility will not be abandoned/boarded up
- The facility will not be sold
- Columbia's history will not be forgotten

Benefits of Relocating the Transitions Program to the Columbia West Wing

- **Addresses the Space Needs of a Growing WSD Program:**

- The new location offers ample space to accommodate future expansion.
- Central location for access to employment, Tech Center and Transitions House
- Valuing the program and students by providing a permanent location
- Allows teachers and staff to be in one location
- Strengthens community and business partnerships through employment opportunities for youth with disabilities.
- Free up portable space at WestSide High School

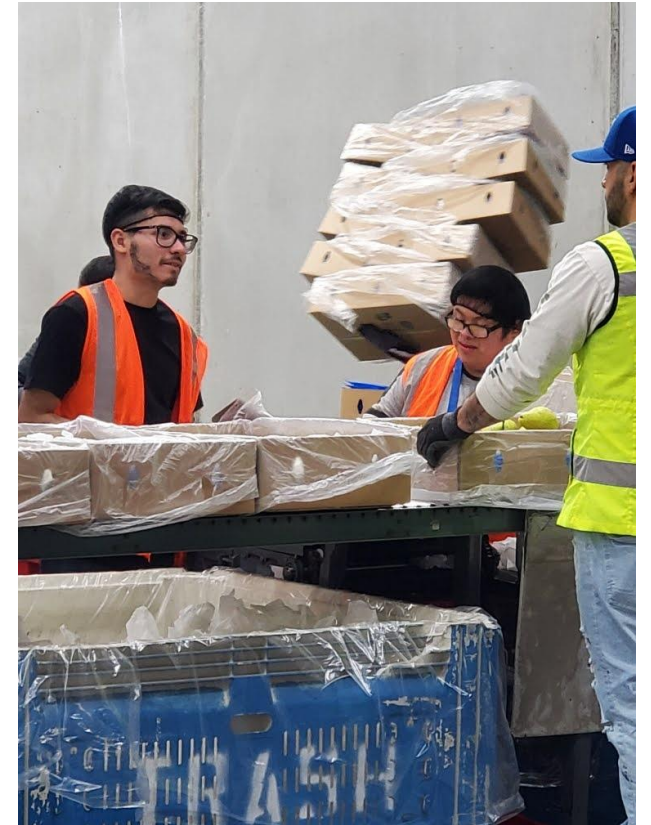
- **Reduces Costs:**

- Eliminates expenses associated with increasing ADA bathroom space
- Avoids potential costs of bringing in a community partner, such as contracts, lease agreements, cost-sharing complexities



Community/District Proposal Requests

- In the event that a WSD program was not selected to occupy the west wing of Columbia, the district had considered accepting proposals to lease the space to the community.
- Relocating the Transitions Program would allow us to proceed with moving the program staff and students to a permanent school location that more appropriately supports their unique needs while continuing to engage with the community.
- In doing so we would be unable to accept lease proposals from the community.



Sharing the building

- The west wing would be used by the Transitions Program.
- Transitions Program will have their own entrance and parking on Hawthorne St.
- Secure doors at the end of the hallway will be closed to create separation between the two programs.
- We would work to create functional and separate spaces for each program under one roof.
- Ultimately, the programs and facility use will complement each other.
- The district can maintain a secure campus for both programs.



Questions, Concerns, and Celebrations

