



Community Education

- We are currently in Winter programming mode, and I am happy to report that our participation has been outstanding. We have served over 260 kids within our programs, which include everything from Tie-Blanket Making to youth sports. Thanks to all of our excellent volunteers and instructors.
- VPK- At the bottom of this page I have written a summary of our proposal that was sent to the Minnesota Department of Education for our proposed enrollment in the Minnesota Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten program. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.
- We are preparing for the Preschool Open House on March 10, 2026. This event is an opportunity for parents and preschoolers to tour the Early Childhood facilities and meet our teachers. That night, parents can register their children for next year's preschool classes. The Open House runs from 4:00-6:30 pm.
- I am currently working on the 2026 Summer Brochure, which will be released at the beginning of April. If you know of anyone who has a unique summertime activity that they would like to share with our Long Prairie and Grey Eagle schools and community, please let me know as we strive to include as many summertime activities as possible in our Summer Community Education Editions. Our goal is to get as many people as possible involved with all of our wonderful summertime activities that take place in our two communities.

Federal Programs and Achievement and Integration

- I am currently working on writing the grant proposal for the three-year plan for the Achievement and Integration Grant. If accepted, this grant will have an award amount of approximately \$700,000 over its three-year duration. The state-funded grant, administered by the Minnesota Department of Education, is designed to support districts in promoting racial and economic integration, improving student academic achievement, expanding equitable access to educational opportunities, and reducing persistent academic disparities among student groups. At LPGE, A&I funding supports several key initiatives, including salaries for ESL paraprofessionals, targeted professional development for staff, and student success activities such as the Academic and
- Career Fair. These efforts align with the grant's overarching goal of ensuring that all students have access to inclusive, high-quality learning experiences that prepare them for college, career, and community success.
- The 3rd Annual LPGE Career and College Fair will be held on Friday, March 2, 2025. This event is funded through our Achievement and Integration Grant and will feature more than 35 career pathways, with presentations from professionals currently working in each field. The college portion of the fair will include representatives from over 10 colleges and universities, who will



provide information on admissions processes, academic programs, and financial aid opportunities. We extend our sincere thanks to Lu at the Long Prairie Chamber for co-sponsoring this valuable opportunity for our students. The LPGE Career Fair planning team includes Luan Thomas-Brunkhorst, Jonathan Young, Audrey Morrill, Stacey Custer, Barton Rud, and me.

- I am currently making amendments to the Title Grants that we receive. The Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) grant requires us to update our school year information through the Minnesota Department of Education, which must be completed by **April 30, 2026 at 3:00 p.m.** The information that is entered in this timeline will represent the final opportunity to revise the approved SFY26 ESEA Consolidated Application in the Minnesota Education Grants System (MEGS). During this Spring Amendment window, local educational agencies may make allowable adjustments to their accepted work plans—such as updating budgets, finance/object codes, and programmatic activities—so that expenditures and implementation accurately reflect current needs and final federal allocations. After the deadline, no further amendments can be submitted, and reimbursement requests are limited to approved codes and budgets, making timely submission essential for compliance, fiscal accuracy, and alignment of Title I–IV programming with district priorities and federal requirements.

Long Prairie–Grey Eagle Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Program Proposal

Program Overview

Long Prairie–Grey Eagle (LPGE) Schools is seeking funding to continue and expand its Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) program, a free, high-quality early learning opportunity for eligible four-year-old children in our district. VPK is designed to prepare students for a successful transition into kindergarten by strengthening early literacy, language, mathematics, social-emotional, and executive-function skills through developmentally appropriate, play-based instruction aligned to Minnesota’s Early Learning Standards.

At LPGE, VPK is embedded within the elementary school environment, allowing children to become familiar with school routines, expectations, and settings prior to kindergarten entry. Classrooms are led by licensed early childhood teachers and supported by paraprofessionals to ensure small-group instruction and individualized support. The program uses research-based curriculum and ongoing formative assessment to guide instruction and monitor student growth.

Need for the Program

Early learning access remains critical in our rural community, where many children enter kindergarten with limited prior preschool experience and varying levels of readiness. Multilingual learners, students from economically disadvantaged households, and children with developmental or academic risk factors particularly benefit from structured early learning opportunities. LPGE’s VPK program directly supports school readiness, helps close opportunity gaps, and promotes equitable access to high-quality early education within the public school system.

Proposed Program Design

LPGE is seeking funding to provide flexible participation options to better meet the needs of families while maintaining high-quality instructional time. The proposed VPK model will offer:

- **Four full days per week** (school-day schedule aligned to the elementary calendar), **or**
- **Three half-days per week**, with each session lasting **three hours**

Both options will deliver standards-aligned instruction, play-based learning experiences, and targeted skill development to prepare students for kindergarten success.

Target Population and Enrollment

Enrollment priority will be given to children who are four years old by September 1 and who may benefit most from early learning opportunities, including:

- Multilingual learners
- Children from low-income households
- Students identified through Early Childhood Screening with developmental or learning risk factors
- Children with limited prior early childhood education experience

LPGE coordinates VPK enrollment and services with Early Childhood Screening, Early Childhood Special Education, and kindergarten programming to ensure smooth transitions and aligned instructional practices.

Expected Outcomes

The LPGE VPK program is expected to:

- Increase kindergarten readiness across developmental domains
- Improve early literacy and language development
- Strengthen social-emotional and executive-function skills
- Reduce readiness and achievement gaps among student groups
- Support successful transitions into kindergarten

Conclusion

LPGE's Voluntary Prekindergarten program is a critical component of the district's early learning continuum. By providing accessible, high-quality preschool within the public school setting and offering flexible scheduling options for families, LPGE ensures that all children enter kindergarten ready to learn and succeed. Funding for this proposal will allow LPGE to sustain and expand equitable early learning access for our youngest learners and strengthen long-term academic outcomes across the district.

Brad Evenson



February 2026