

# DIXON PUBLIC SCHOOLS #170

*"A Place to Grow"*

[www.dps170.org](http://www.dps170.org)

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Margo Empen, Superintendent  
Doug Stansford, Asst. Superintendent  
Marc Campbell, Business Manager

Date: April 10, 2025  
To: Board of Education, LCSEA, Mrs. Glenn, Mrs. Huffman  
Cc: Doug Stansford, Marc Campbell, Ms. Bus  
From: Margo Empen  
RE: 2025-2026 Programmatic Changes

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Every spring, we review our regular and special education programming to ensure we meet the needs of all students. There are three changes that will occur at Washington for the 2025-2026 school year. Due to the needs of some of our incoming kindergarten students, and the numbers we have eligible for functional independence and functional communication in Grades K-2, we are adding the following programs. These classes will utilize current staff, so we do not need to hire staff to establish these programs.

#### Transition Kindergarten: (a.k.a. Junior Kindergarten)

- Students who are not ready for the requirements of a full day, academic focused, kindergarten. Focus would be on social-emotional learning, play based, possibly students with late birthdays, inadequate social skills, and low academics.
- Focus on preacademic skills, independence skills, slower paced curriculum.
- Students would be in kindergarten for two years.
- Could be half-day, full day, or a combination of both. This will dictate class sizes.
- Teaming on students to ensure goals are met to ensure they are ready for full day kindergarten in year two.
- We will be finalizing the entrance criteria for this program by May 2, 2025.

#### Functional Communication: Grades K-2 with Mrs. Miller

- Academic focus of grade level skills with attention on communication strategies and visuals.
- By including grades K-2, students will have one less transition to make in their elementary years.

#### Early Foundations: Grades K-2 with Mrs. Folgers

- Academic focus of grade level skills with attention on independence and life skills.
- By including grades K-2, students will have one less transition to make in their elementary years.

*Dixon Public Schools, in cooperation with the community, will provide students with a comprehensive educational program that produces well-educated, self-sufficient, and involved citizens.*