Walla Walla Public Schools
364 S. Park Street • Walla Walla, WA 99362 • (509) 527-3000 • www.wwps.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Regular Business Meeting - 5:30 PM
May 19, 2026
364 S Park St
Walla Walla, WA 99362

Watch Live: https://wwps-org.zoom.us/j/92074049502
Listen: Dial 1-253-215-8782 and enter the Webinar ID: 920 7404 9502
Individuals with disabilities and those individuals who may have difficulty attending a board meeting due to issues such as mobility limitations may contact the superintendent's office at 509-526-6715 no later than three days before a regular meeting and as soon as possible in advance of a special meeting so the district can arrange for them to participate.
Spanish Agenda / Agenda en Español: https://www.wwps.org/district/information/school-board/board-meeting-schedule

I. **CALL TO ORDER:** *(5:30 p.m.) Alayna Brinton*
II. **FLAG SALUTE:** *Abril Salazar*
III. **ROLL CALL:**
- Alayna Brinton, President
- Kathy Mulkerin, Vice President
- Elizabeth Alonso-Barrientos
- Ruth Ladderud
- Derek Sarley
- Ari Kim-Leavitt, Student Representative
- Abril Salazar, Student Representative

IV. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** *Alayna Brinton*
V. **CONSENT AGENDA:** *Alayna Brinton*

1. Personnel Report 3
2. May 5 & 19 Accounts Payable and April Payroll 4
3. 2025-2026 Head Start Amendment Budget Revision 5
4. 2026-2027 Head Start Non-Competing New Grant Application 8
5. Resolution #02-2026 Delegating Authority to WIAA 2026-2027 12
6. Regular Board Meeting Minutes of April 21, 2026 13
7. Excused Absence for Director Kathy Mulkerin from May 5, 2026 Regular Study Meeting
8. Regular Study Meeting Minutes of May 5, 2026 16

VI. **SPECIAL PROGRAMS/INTRODUCTIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS:** *(5:35 p.m.) Alayna Brinton*
1. Building Belonging Recognition: *Dr. Julie Perron*
   - *Lincoln High School Sources of Strength Student Group*
   - *Walla Walla Center for Children and Families Office Team*
2. Partners of the Year Recognition: *Alayna Brinton & Dr. Ben Gauyan*
   - *United Way of Walla Walla*
   - *Rod Fazzari - Two Hearts Communications*

The Walla Walla School District is an Equal Opportunity Employer and complies with all requirements of the ADA.

- *Gesa Power House Theatre*
- *Mark VanDonge Portraits*
- *Picture Lab*

3. Recognition of High School State Champions: *Dr. Ben Gauyan*
   - *Garrison TSA TEAMS*
   - *Wa-Hi FBLA*
   - *Wa-Hi JROTC*
   - *SEATech SkillsUSA*
   - *Wa-Hi Knowledge Bowl*

VII. **STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT:**

1. **WA-HI ASSOCIATE STUDENT BODY REPRESENTATIVE REPORT:** *Bruno Richardson*
2. **LINCOLN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT REPORT:** *Curtis Mendez*

VIII. **CITIZENS' COMMENTS:** *(5:45 p.m.) Alayna Brinton* **17**

IX. **REPORTS:** *(5:55 p.m.) Alayna Brinton*

1. Board of Directors Report: *Alayna Brinton*
2. Superintendent's Report: *Dr. Ben Gauyan*
   a. Monthly Enrollment Report 18
3. CASCADES Report: *Barb Casey* 20
4. 2026-2027 Budget Report: *Janette Jeffris* 31

X. **ACTION:** *(6:55 p.m.) Alayna Brinton*

XI. **ADJOURNMENT:** *(7:00 p.m.) Alayna Brinton*

The Walla Walla School District is an Equal Opportunity Employer and complies with all requirements of the ADA.

Walla Walla Public Schools
Developing Washington's Most Sought-After Graduates

Human Resources
364 S. Park Street
Walla Walla, WA 99362
(509) 527-3000
www.wwps.org

PERSONNEL REPORT

May 19, 2026 – Board Meeting

Date: May 14, 2026

EMPLOYMENT

Administrative: Emily Dana, Assistant Principal, Walla Walla High School

Certificated: Gloria "Patty" De La O-Parks, School Psychologist, Special Education
William "Will" Hammond, CTE: Technology Education Teacher, Walla Walla High School
Alexis Leathers, CTE: Agriculture Education Teacher, Walla Walla High School

Classified: Monica Carter, Bus Assistant, SE Washington Transportation Co-Op
Diana Rojas-Ortiz, Custodian, Walla Walla High School

RESIGNATION/RETIREMENT/SEPARATION OF EMPLOYMENT

Certificated: Jen Hein, Science Teacher, Walla Walla High School, 12 years

Classified: Oscar Brito Salgado, Migrant Specialist, Dual and Equity, 10 years
Andrea Diaz-Garcia, Bilingual Para-Educator, Walla Walla High School, 1 year
Dee Garofalo, Para-Educator, Green Park Elementary School, 1.5 years
Annalee Meyer, Head Start Assistant Teacher, WWCCF, 8 months
Tracy Walmsley, Para-Educator, WWCCF, 5 years

The Walla Walla School District is an Equal Opportunity Employer and complies with all requirements of the ADA.

WARRANT SUMMARY

Vouchers audited and certified by the auditing officer as required by RCW 42.24.080, and those expense reimbursement claims certified as required by RCW 42.24.090, are approved for payment. Those payments have been recorded on this listing which has been made available to the board.

As of May 19th, the Board, by a majority vote, does approve for payment those vouchers and electronic transfers included in the following list and described as follow:

Warrant Date	Warrant Number	Fund	Warrant Number	Amount
		General Fund		
4/21/2026	252583	Through	252584	$ 12,756.64
5/5/2026	252619	Through	252725	$ 393,730.76
5/19/2026	252726	Through	252856	$ 652,873.88
5/5/2026	252600338	Wire Transfer	252600359	$ 5,052.97
5/19/2026	252600361	Wire Transfer	252600385	$ 4,943.68
		Capital Projects		
5/5/2026	250028	Through	250028	$ 24,077.50
5/19/2026	250029	Through	250031	$ 9,690.81
		Through		
		Wire Transfer		
		Wire Transfer		
		ASB		
5/5/2026	250149	Through	250155	$ 14,075.38
5/19/2026	250156	Through	250172	$ 23,130.24
5/19/2026	250174	Through	250174	$ 874.86
5/19/2026	270173	Through	270173	$ 19,068.49
5/5/2026	252600336	Wire Transfer	252600337	$ 416.86
5/19/2026	252600360	Wire Transfer	252600360	$ 80.31
		Transportation Vehicle		
		Through		
		Through		
		Wire Transfer		
		Wire Transfer		
		Payroll		
4/30/2026	252585	Through	252618	$ 2,223,173.38
4/30/2026	1400001	Wire Transfer	1401218	$ 3,529,022.77
4/30/2026	NA	Payroll Taxes	NA	$ 1,167,990.05

TOTAL:	**$**	**8,080,958.58**

SCHOOL BOARD PRESIDENT:

_____

Alayna Brinton

SECRETARY OF THE BOARD:

_____

Dr. Ben Gauyan, Superintendent

GRANT JUSTIFICATION NARRATIVE
Walla Walla School District # 140
Grant Number: 10CH011798
FY: 2026

Section I. Program Approach to Service Delivery

The Walla Walla School District Head Start Program budget reflects funding for a total of 116 federally funded slots for the budget period of September 1, 2025 through August 31, 2026.

The greatest cost to the Walla Walla School District Head Start Program is salaries and benefits, which pay for highly qualified staff whose wages are negotiated to be competitive yet in line with the local economy. The program follows the school district collective bargaining agreement for classified staff. Program staff receive the same benefits as all other district employees.

Section II. Budget Justification Narrative

The Walla Walla School District Head Start Program budget has been prepared to meet the fiscal guidelines and requirements of the funding letter from the Administration for Children and Families. The total annual grant amount is $1,990,857. This includes projected funding for Program Operations ($1,972,448) and Training and Technical Assistance ($18,409). The total non-federal share (NFS) supporting the program is $497,714.

Budget Category	Program Operations	Training Technical Assistance	Non-Federal Share
Personnel	1,121,053.00		177,288.00
Fringe Benefits	625,428.00		113,449.00
Travel	500.00	3,440.00	
Equipment			
Supplies	34,480.00	7,289.00	10,000.00
Contractual			
Construction			
Other	10,000.00	7,680.00	111,707.00
Total Direct Charges	**1,791,461.00**	**18,409.00**	**335,560.00**
Indirect Charges	180,987.00	0.00	85,270.00
Total	**1,972,448.00**	**18,409.00**	**497,714.00**

PERSONNEL
$1,121,053
Personnel Costs Include:

- Child Health and Development Personnel
    - Program Managers & Content Area Experts
    - Teachers
    - Teacher Aides
    - Health/Mental Health Services
    - ERSEA Coordinator
- Family and Community Partnership Personnel
    - Family Advocates
- Program Design & Management Personnel
    - Site Coordinator/Director
    - Clerical/Secretarial Support
- Other Personnel
    - Bus Assistants

FRINGE BENEFITS

$625,428

Benefits are predetermined by district central administration office and include medical, dental, vision, retirement, and mandatory payroll benefits (i.e. worker's compensation and social security). Also included is the Paid Family Leave Benefit required per state statute. Increase to benefits cost proportional to salary increases.

TRAVEL

$3,940

Travel costs support the implementation of Training and Technical Assistance and program delivery, including out-of-town travel for staff professional development and training. See T/TA Plan for details. Also included is costs for mileage for family advocates home visits as needed.

EQUIPMENT

$0

No charges included in this category.

SUPPLIES

$41,769

Charges are supplies necessary for program operations. This could include educational print materials, consumable activities and art supplies; food service supplies for staff modeling family-style meals, along with meals and snacks not covered by CACFP reimbursement; cost of replacing cups, plates, tableware, serving containers; and office supplies required to maintain the administrative office.

CONTRACTUAL

$0

No charges included in this category.

CONSTRUCTION

$0
No charges included in this category.

OTHER
$17,680
Charges are other costs necessary for program operations. This could include local travel, printing/advertising, instructional curriculum, staff development, parent services, and child services consultation.

INDIRECT CHARGES
$180,987
Walla Walla School Districts Indirect Rate at 10% (de minimis)
Building and child liability insurance, accounting, payroll, human resources, grounds, facilities maintenance, legal services, and audit costs are included under indirect costs.

NON-FEDERAL SHARE
$497,714
Personnel & Fringe Benefits

- In-kind includes five (5) bus drivers, one (1) custodian, and two and a half (2.5) teacher's aide.

Travel

- No in-kind is generated in this category.

Equipment

- No in-kind is generated in this category.

Supplies

- This reflects costs of printing accessed at our centralized print center, copy costs not charged to the program, and supplies from our central warehouse.

Contractual

- No in-kind is generated in this category.

Construction

- No in-kind is generated in this category.

Other

- Rent: This in-kind is inclusive of custodial supplies, utilities, maintenance, & repair costs.
- Liability Insurance: The program is included in the District's liability policy, this in-kind amount is a nominal 2% of our total policy cost.
- Indirect Costs:
    - In-kind is generated from the indirect rate difference between the federal indirect cost rate (22.47%) and fixed cost rate (10%).

FINANCIAL AND PROPERTY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM AND INTERNAL CONTROLS
Refer to attached policies:

- 6101 Federal Cash & Financial Management
- 6210 Purchasing Authorization and Control

GRANT JUSTIFICATION NARRATIVE
Walla Walla School District # 140
Grant Number: 10CH011798
FY: 2027

Section I. Program Approach to Service Delivery

The Walla Walla School District Head Start Program budget reflects funding for a total of 116 federally funded slots for the budget period of July 1, 2026 through June 29, 2027.

The greatest cost to the Walla Walla School District Head Start Program is salaries and benefits, which pay for highly qualified staff whose wages are negotiated to be competitive yet in line with the local economy. The program follows the school district collective bargaining agreement for classified staff. Program staff receive the same benefits as all other district employees. Benefits include medical, dental, vision, retirement, and mandatory payroll benefits (i.e. worker's compensation and social security).

Section II. Budget Justification Narrative

The Walla Walla School District Head Start Program budget has been prepared to meet the fiscal guidelines and requirements of the funding letter from the Administration for Children and Families. The total annual grant amount is $2,003,382. This includes projected funding for Program Operations ($1,972,448), COLA Funds ($12,525), Training and Technical Assistance ($18,409). The total non-federal share (NFS) supporting the program is $500,846.

Budget Category	Program Operations	Training Technical Assistance	Non-Federal Share
Personnel	1,183,673.00		148,875.00
Fringe Benefits	668,596.00		111,739.00
Travel	500.00	3,440.00	
Equipment			
Supplies	16,044.00	7,289.00	10,000.00
Contractual			
Construction			
Other	13,700.00	7,680.00	111,707.00
Total Direct Charges	**1,882,513.00**	**18,409.00**	**382,321.00**
Indirect Charges	102,460.00	0.00	118,525.00
Total	**1,984,973.00**	**18,409.00**	**500,846.00**

PERSONNEL

$1,183,673

Personnel Costs include $10,000 in COLA funds and cover the following positions:

- Child Health and Development Personnel
    - Program Managers & Content Area Experts
    - Teachers
    - Teacher Aides
    - Health/Mental Health Services
    - ERSEA Coordinator
- Family and Community Partnership Personnel
    - Family Advocates
- Program Design & Management Personnel
    - Site Coordinator/Director
    - Clerical/Secretarial Support
- Other Personnel
    - Bus Assistants

FRINGE BENEFITS

$668,596

Benefits are predetermined by district central administration office and include medical, dental, vision, retirement, and mandatory payroll benefits (i.e. worker's compensation and social security). Also included is the Paid Family Leave Benefit required per state statute. Increase to benefits cost proportional to salary increases and include $1,884 in COLA funds

TRAVEL

$3,940

Travel costs support the implementation of Training and Technical Assistance and program delivery, including out-of-town travel for staff professional development and training. See T/TA Plan for details. Also included is costs for mileage for family advocates home visits and families who attend Head Start Family Events.

EQUIPMENT

$0

No charges included in this category.

SUPPLIES

$23,333

Charges are supplies necessary for program operations. This could include educational print materials, consumable activities and art supplies; food service supplies for staff modeling family-style meals, along with meals and snacks not covered by CACFP reimbursement; cost of replacing cups, plates, tableware, serving containers; and office supplies required to maintain the administrative office.

CONTRACTUAL

$0
No charges included in this category.

CONSTRUCTION
$0
No charges included in this category.

OTHER
$21,380
Charges are other costs necessary for program operations. This includes local travel, printing/advertising, instructional curriculum, staff development, parent services, and child services consultation.

INDIRECT CHARGES
$102,460
Walla Walla School Districts Indirect Rate at 5.36% determined by the WA OSPI Indirect Cost Rate agreement with the Department of Education. $641 from COLA funds.
Building and child liability insurance, accounting, payroll, human resources, grounds, facilities maintenance, legal services, and audit costs are included under indirect costs.

NON-FEDERAL SHARE
$500,846
Personnel & Fringe Benefits
- In-kind includes five (5) bus drivers, one (1) custodian, two and a half (2.5) bus assistants, a part-time nurse, and a part-time fiscal agent.

Travel
- No in-kind is generated in this category.

Equipment
- No in-kind is generated in this category.

Supplies
- This reflects costs of printing accessed at our centralized print center, copy costs not charged to the program, and supplies from our central warehouse.

Contractual
- No in-kind is generated in this category.

Construction
- No in-kind is generated in this category.

Other
- Rent: This in-kind is inclusive of custodial supplies, utilities, maintenance, & repair costs.
- Liability Insurance: The program is included in the District's liability policy, this in-kind amount is a nominal 2% of our total policy cost.
- Indirect Costs:
    - In-kind is generated from the indirect rate difference between the unrestricted indirect cost rate (20.96%) and federal indirect cost rate (5.36%).

FINANCIAL AND PROPERTY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM AND INTERNAL CONTROLS

Refer to attached policies:

- 6101 Federal Cash & Financial Management
- 6210 Purchasing Authorization and Control

SCHOOL BOARD RESOLUTION FORM

DUE ANNUALLY BY THE SECOND FRIDAY IN JUNE

School District Type (select one): ☒ **Public** ☐ **Private** ☐ **Charter** ☐ **Tribal**

School District Name: Walla Walla Public Schools **Resolution #** (optional)**:** 02-2026 **Date:** May 19, 2026

Schools Approved for WIAA Membership: Walla Walla High School, Garrison Middle School, Pioneer Middle School

By action of the 1976 Legislature, each School District Board of Directors may delegate control, supervision, and regulation of any extracurricular activity to the WIAA and compensate such entity for services provided. The local **SCHOOL BOARD PRESIDENT** and **SUPERINTENDENT** must sign this resolution form to indicate that the School Board has approved the Public School District's or Private School's membership with the Washington Interscholastic Activities Association (WIAA) and as members, these schools will follow the WIAA Rules and Regulations.

DELEGATING AUTHORITY TO WIAA

WHEREAS Chapter 32, Laws of 1975-76, 2nd Ex. Sess. grants authority to each school district board of directors to control, supervise and regulate the conduct of interschool athletic activities and other interschool extracurricular activities of an athletic, cultural, social, or recreational nature for students in the district.

WHEREAS Chapter 32, Laws of 1975-76, 2nd Ex. Sess. authorizes school district boards of directors to delegate control, supervision and regulation of any of the aforesaid activities to any voluntary, nonprofit entity and to compensate any such entity for services provided subject to the satisfaction of certain conditions and approval by the State Board of Education.

WHEREAS the Washington Interscholastic Activities Association is a voluntary, nonprofit entity which has satisfied the conditions, expressly set forth in Chapter 32, Laws of 1975-76, 2nd Ex. Sess. and has further been approved by the State Board of Education in action taken on August 17, 1977.

WHEREAS the board of directors of directors of the following School District or School being otherwise fully informed of the rules and regulations of the Washington Interscholastic Activities Association as approved by the State Board of Education and recognizing that said rules and regulations provide for private sponsorship of post-season tournaments for extracurricular activities by WIAA, consent to abide by such rules and regulations.

NOW THEREFORE, the board of directors of the following School District or School hereby delegates to the Washington Interscholastic Activities Association the authority to control, supervise and regulate interschool activities consistent with the rules and regulations of WIAA. The Board of Directors retains the right to establish eligibility standards that meet or exceed the rules and regulations of WIAA.

INTERSCHOLASTIC OFFICIALS L&I COVERAGE STATEWIDE & MEMBERSHIP BILLING

Beginning July 1, 1988, interscholastic sports officials were covered by Washington State Labor and Industries via a common rate and payment system that eliminated game-by-game calculations and record keeping by school and/or district business offices. WIAA will guarantee payment of L&I premiums for WOA registered officials for all interscholastic activities under WIAA's jurisdiction and will assess WIAA member schools based on tiered billing rates at the same time service fees are billed. Officials L&I coverage is only in effect for activities in which registered WOA officials officiate, and which are authorized and offered by School Board approval and listed on the school's WIAA membership form.

Member schools will be billed in August according to the Membership Fee Structure outlined in the handbook of the upcoming school year. Labor and Industries (L&I) fees will be included on the bills sent out to each member school at that time. Per Rule 3.6.4: Member school service and Labor and Industries fees are due November 1. Schools that fail to submit service and L & I fees by December 1 will be excluded from participation in regular season contests and culminating events until fees are remitted and be assessed a $100.00 late fee.

By signing below *the School District Superintendent/Head of School, School Board President (for Public School Districts), and school board members agree to the information above for the public school district or private school listed above, on or before the date listed above.*

Superintendent/Head of School: Dr. Ben Gauyan Signature:_____

School Board President (if applicable): Alayna Brinton Signature:_____

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Regular Business Meeting – 5:30 p.m.
April 21, 2026
WWPS Administration Building / 364 S. Park Street

PRESENT

BOARD OF DIRECTORS	ADMINISTRATORS
Alayna Brinton, President	Dr. Ben Gauyan, Superintendent
Kathy Mulkerin, Vice President	Chris Gardea, Assistant Superintendent
Elizabeth Alonso-Barrientos	Janette Jeffris, Director of Fiscal Services
Ruth Ladderud	Christy Krutulis, Director of Teaching and Learning
Derek Sarley	Julie Perron, Director of Equity and Dual
Ari Kim-Leavitt, Student Representative	Marci Knauft, Principal of Lincoln High School

AUDIENCE
Approximately 30 individuals, including board members, administrators and guests, were in attendance.

I. CALL TO ORDER
The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. in the Administration Building Anne Golden Boardroom, by President Alayna Brinton.

II. FLAG SALUTE
The flag salute and Pledge of Allegiance were led by Director Elizabeth Alonso-Barrientos.

III. ROLL CALL
All board members were present except for Student Representative Abril Salazar that was excused.

IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
Motion by Derek Sarley to approve the agenda with one amendment, to move item five up to follow item two and seconded by Ruth Ladderud to approve the amended agenda, the motion carried unanimously.

V. CONSENT AGENDA
Motion by Ruth Ladderud and seconded by Derek Sarley to approve the consent agenda consisting of the following items: 1) personnel report; 2) extracurricular athletic contracts; 3) issuance of contracts & notification of reasonable assurance; 4) April 7 & 21 accounts payable and March payroll; 5) regular business meeting minutes of March 17, 2026. The motion carried unanimously.

VI. SPECIAL PROGRAMS/INTRODUCTIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS
Walla Walla High School Student Performance: Drama Program Advisor Kristin Hessler brought student performers to give the school board members a special sneak preview of the Spring Musical Frozen.

Volunteer Appreciation Month & Recognition of Volunteers Reaching 100 Hours: School board members and Dr. Gauyan honored and recognized the district's VIP (Volunteer in Person) "100 Hour Club" volunteers. Volunteer Coordinator Beth Swanson provided an update to the school board where she honored Ann Ray and the VIP volunteers who have logged 100 or more volunteer

The Walla Walla School District is an Equal Opportunity Employer and complies with all requirements of the ADA.

hours this school year. Swanson noted since the district implemented the new VIP Volunteer System at WWPS in August 2023, the district has been able to provide a detailed, organized way to connect volunteers to schools/teachers/classrooms that are in need of volunteers.

Building Belonging Recognition: Director of Equity and Dual Programs Dr. Julie Perron presented a Building Belonging award to Libby Thompson. Dr. Perron noted the Building Belonging award is aligned to the district's "We All Belong Here" unity message promoting a civil, safe and compassionate learning environment. This board level recognition is awarded to students or staff who promote activities that create and sustain a sense of belonging, fairness, and justice for all students.

Teacher Appreciation Week May 4-8, 2026: Superintendent Dr. Ben Gauyan announced Teacher Appreciation Week is May 4-8. He and the board of directors extended their heartfelt gratitude to the dedicated educators who inspire, challenge, and support students across the district.

VII. CITIZENS' COMMENTS

None.

VIII. REPORTS

Board of Directors Report: The Board members shared of events and activities in which they participated or attended since the last Board meeting, noting the Big Blue Boosters event and Senior Presentations.

Superintendent's Report: Superintendent Dr. Ben Gauyan shared that he attended Pioneer Middle School's first track meet in 40 years, thanking the community for their support of the capital levy and noted April enrollment is 5243 FTE.

School Report: Lincoln High School Principal Marci Knauft gave a school report update.

Qmlative Report: Executive Director of Teaching and Learning Christy Krutulis and Business Services Director Janette Jeffris updated the school board on the Qmlativ transition. Walla Walla Public Schools will implement Qmlativ, a next-generation school management system, for the 2026–2027 school year. This transition will modernize the district's student information, finance, and human resources systems into a single, integrated platform, enhancing efficiency, improving data access and reporting, and strengthening communication for staff, students, and families.

Budget Report: Assistant Superintendent Chris Gardea and Business Services Director Janette Jeffris provided the school board with an update on the General Fund budget development for the 2026–2027 school year, highlighting a continued focus on fiscal responsibility amid declining enrollment.

Policies Second Reading: Dr. Gauyan presented the following policies for second reading:

1630 Evaluation of the Superintendent
1820 Board Self-Assessment
2106 Program Compliance
2108 Learning Assistance Program
2140 Comprehensive School Counseling Program
3425 Accommodating Students with Adrenal Insufficiency
6920 Construction Design
6955 Maintenance of Records

IX. ACTION

Policies Second Reading: Motion by Ruth Ladderud and seconded by Derek Sarley to approve policies 1630-6955 as presented; the motion carried unanimously.

The Walla Walla School District is an Equal Opportunity Employer and complies with all requirements of the ADA.

X. ADJOURNMENT

President Brinton adjourned the meeting at 8:02 p.m.

Minutes to be presented for board approval on May 19, 2026.

APPROVED:

Dr. Ben Gauyan, Superintendent and Secretary of the Board *- Veronica Esparza, Recorder*	Alayna Brinton School Board President

The Walla Walla School District is an Equal Opportunity Employer and complies with all requirements of the ADA.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Regular Study Meeting – 5:30 p.m.
May 5, 2026
WWPS Administration Building / 364 S. Park Street

PRESENT

BOARD OF DIRECTORS	ADMINISTRATORS
Alayna Brinton, President	Dr. Ben Gauyan, Superintendent
Elizabeth Alonso-Barrientos	Christy Krutulis, Director of Fiscal Services
Ruth Ladderud	Julie Perron, Director of Equity and Dual
Derek Sarley	Mark Higgins, Director of Communications
Ari Kim-Leavitt, Student Representative	
Abril Salazar, Student Representative	

AUDIENCE
Approximately 12 individuals, including board members, administrators and guests, were in attendance.

I. CALL TO ORDER
The meeting was called to order at 5:32 p.m. in the Administration Building Anne Golden Boardroom, by President Alayna Brinton.

II. FLAG SALUTE
The flag salute and Pledge of Allegiance were led by Student Representative Ari Kim-Leavitt.

III. ROLL CALL
All board members were present with the exception of Director Kathy Mulkerin.

IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
Motion by Ruth Ladderud and seconded by Elizabeth Alonso-Barrientos to approve the agenda as presented; the motion carried unanimously.

V. STUDY ITEMS
Strategic Plan Review: Dr. Gauyan.

VI. ADJOURNMENT
President Brinton adjourned the meeting at 6:23 p.m.

Minutes to be presented for board approval on May 19, 2026.

APPROVED:

Dr. Ben Gauyan, Superintendent
and Secretary of the Board
- Veronica Esparza, Recorder

Alayna Brinton
School Board President

The Walla Walla School District is an Equal Opportunity Employer and complies with all requirements of the ADA.

~ CITIZENS' COMMENTS ~

We welcome your comments and questions during the time set aside in regular business meetings for citizens' comments. Attendees sign up to provide public comment using the sign-in form in the boardroom prior to the start of the Citizens' Comments period of the meeting.

Citizens' Comment Script:
This is the time in the meeting we welcome citizens to come forward and offer public comment, ask questions, or provide recommendations for educational improvement. Per Board policy we typically refrain from providing responses following public comments, and will ensure follow up is made if requested and necessary.

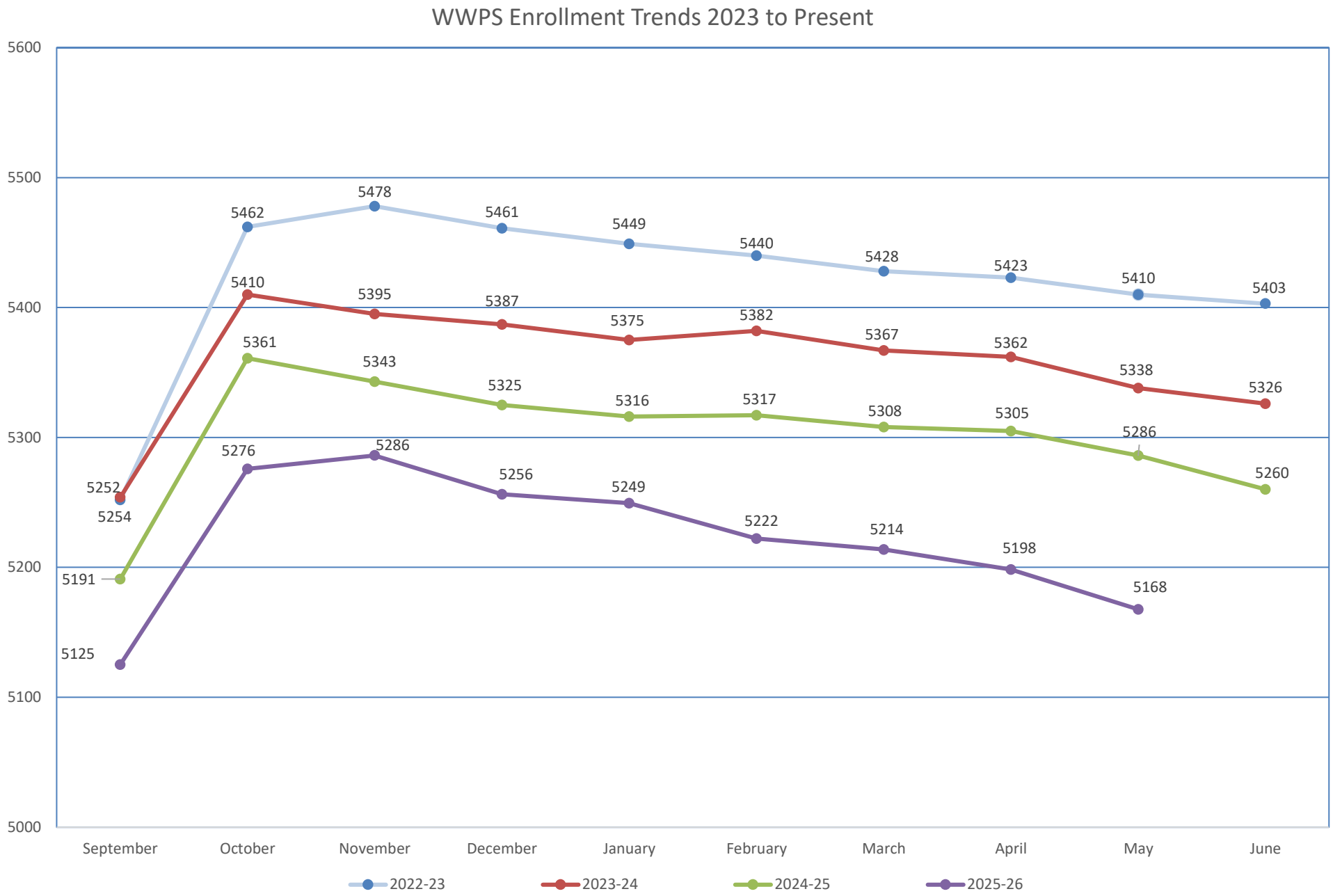
We also ask that you adhere to the following guidelines:

- State your name.
- Keep your comments brief and to the point, with a **three-minute time limit**.
- Do not reflect adversely on the political or economic view, ethnic background, character, or motives of any individual.
- If you have a specific complaint about an individual employee, it must be addressed through the Superintendent's office and not in this setting.

At this time, please come forward if you wish to address the board.

01/03/2022

The Walla Walla School District is an Equal Opportunity Employer and complies with all requirements of the ADA.


WWPS Enrollment Trends 2023 to Present
5600
5500
5400
5300
5200
5100
5000
September
October
November
December
January
February
March
April
May
June
2022-23
2023-24
2024-25
2025-26
5462
5478
5461
5449
5440
5428
5423
5410
5403
5410
5395
5387
5375
5382
5367
5362
5338
5326
5361
5343
5325
5316
5317
5308
5305
5286
5260
5252
5254
5276
5286
5256
5249
5222
5214
5198
5168
5191
5125

Target Avg Class Size	24		25		27		27		28		28			
2025-2026	**Kindergarten**		**First**		**Second**		**Third**		**Fourth**		**Fifth**			**TOTALS**
Berney	Vicari, S	20	Diaz Madrigal, A	18	Hartelius, S	20	Baker, T	23	Ambler, C	24	Cummings, T	21		
	Hubbard, K	20	Gonzales, C	18	Kearbey, K	20	Pekar, K	23	Bona, A	23	Holbrook, J	22		
					Parodi, D	21					James, I	21		
Behavior Prg K-5	Merrill, L	1	Merrill, L	-	Merrill, L	2	Merrill, L	6	Merrill, L	2	Merrill, L	1		
SECTIONS	**14**	40		36		61		46		47		64		294
slots available	8		14		20		8		9		20		Ratio	21.00
Edison	Espinosa, M	22	Maycumber, Y	20	Hobbs, S	22	Aceves, J	22	Ledesma, M	25	Ochoa, F	24		
	Helm, E	21	Berumen, B	20	Parsons, S	20	Estrada, A	24	Reed, J	24	Solis Martinez, V	23		
	Matson, E	22	Moreno, J	20	Saldivar, C	21	Lopez, J	23	Schafer, J	25	Solis, C	25		
	Valencia, A	21	Williams, N	18	Sanchez Sarabia, C	19								
SECTIONS	**21**	86		78		82		69		74		72		461
slots available*	(2)		6		2		12		10		12		Ratio	21.95
Green Park	Goble, E	24	Bahena-Flores, R	20	Chavez, R	23	Contreras, A	20	Esquivel, T	18	Maya, J	26		
	Nuno, J	24	Garcia, A	20	Salazar, I	23	Lopez, M	22	Mora, G	19	Ambler, D	29		
	Hartzheim, M	16	Collins, A	19	Shuler, A	23	Boeckman, R	20	Johnson, M	20	Lux, J	27		
	Katsel, E	15	James, L	20	Stimmel, M	22	Partlow, B	19	Tobin, J	20				
Lifeskills Program	Angotti, E	2	Angotti, E	5	Angotti, E	2	Angotti, E	-	Angotti, E	1	Angotti, E	1		
	Hinsley, D	-	Hinsley, D	3	Hinsley, D	1	Hinsley, D	-	Hinsley, D	5	Hinsley, D	0		
SECTIONS	**23**	79		79		91		81		77		82		489
slots available	17		21		17		46		55		2		Ratio	21.26
Prospect Point	Ferraro, A	18	Hanson, K	21	Baldwin, W	20	Jausoro, D	25	Prull, V	23	Babbit, H	25		
	Heinzman, A	17	Humphreys, S	20	McFetridge, M	21	Kuhlmann, K	25	Taylor, L	23	Parodi, D	27		
	Kaup Rose, S	17	Pederson, R	22	Paul, M	19	Reese, N	24	Watson, K	23	Pegel, G	25		
SECTIONS	**18**	52		63		60		74		69		77		395
slots available*	20		12		21		7		15		7		Ratio	21.94
Sharpstein	Gillin, L	21	Locati, R	20	Griffith, R	24	Berg, L	20	Mendoza, L	24	Keyes, K	26		
	Wilson, H	21	Ruvalcaba, G	22	Russell, J	23	Hutchinson, D	20	Woiblet, B	24	VanDonge, B	25		
							York, L	21						
Developmental Prog	Breland, K	-	Breland, K	4	Breland, K	2	Breland, K	-			Breland, K	-		
Autism Program	Amundson	-	Amundson	1	Amundson	2	Amundson	3	Amundson	1	Amundson	6		
	Vaughan	-	Vaughan	3	Vaughan	2	Vaughan	1	Vaughan	2	Vaughan	-		
SECTIONS	**13**	42		42		47		61		48		51		291
slots available	6		8		7		20		8		5		Ratio	22.38
WW Online/Homelink	Homelink	6	Homelink	8	Homelink	7	Homelink	6	Homelink	4	Homelink	11		
	WW Online	-	WW Online	-	WW Online	2	WW Online	-	WW Online	1	WW Online	3		
		6		8		9		6		5		14		48
slots available														
TOT SLOTS AVAIL	49		61		67		93		97		46			
GRADE LVL TOTAL		299		298		341		331		315		346		1930
GRADE LVL SECTNS	15		15		16		15		14		14			
AVERAGE LOADS		19.93		19.87		21.31		22.07		22.50		24.71		

TOTAL SC SPED	3	16	11	10	11	8	59
TOTAL ENROLLED	308	322	361	347	331	368	2037

Dual classes



An Alternative Pathway to Equitable & Accessible Autism Evaluation for Underserved Youth

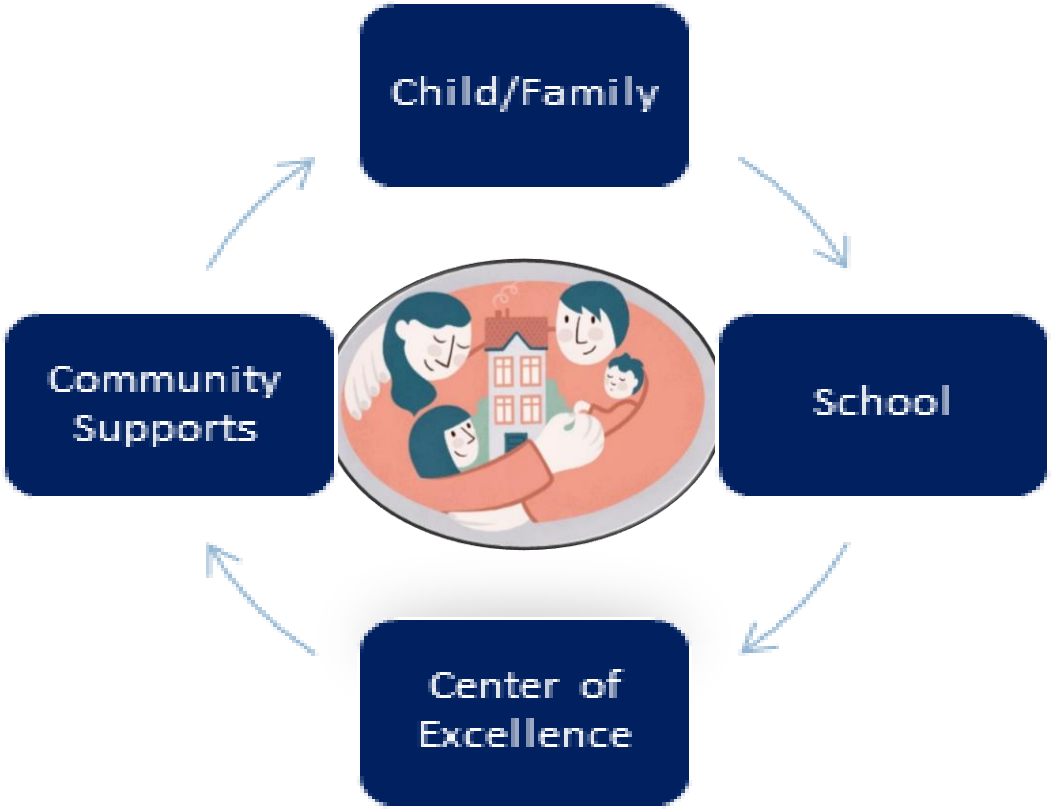
CASCADES CO-DIRECTORS:

Felice Orlich, PhD
Clinical Professor
UW Dept. of Psychiatry & SCH, Autism Center

Thanh Nguyen, PhD
Postdoctoral Scholar
UW Dept. of Pediatrics, WA INCLUDE & SCH, Autism Center

CASCADES

Our mission is to create equitable and accessible cross system Autism evaluations to facilitate targeted interventions for racially and ethnically minoritized youth, and socioeconomically disadvantaged families via a collaborative school-clinic model of care.



Brief History & Timeline

CASCADES was developed in 2018 as a **collaboration** between the Bellevue School District and Seattle Children's Autism Center to reach BIPOC, immigrant, and low-income families

In response to persistent inequities in access to autism diagnostic and treatment services for families, CASCADES has **expanded** to four school districts in King County in 2022, Pierce county and partnered with WA INCLUDE and SMART Teams in 2024.

CASCADES has **decreased time to diagnosis** by a factor of three, while **improving access to care and coordination.** State demand for CASCADES is growing rapidly with increasing national interest.

CASCADES

Collaborative Autism School Assessment & Development Efforts

Underserved youth and families are:

- Less likely to receive an ASD diagnosis
- More likely to be identified at an older age
- More often misdiagnosed
- More likely to be identified with autism in the educational setting only

Young et al. (2024) using data from ADDM Network:

- Child diagnostic factors were the most predictive of an autism identification, above and beyond that of race/ethnicity
- BUT, inequitable evaluation experience significantly correlated with race/ethnicity

Liptak et al., 2007; Mandell et al., 2009; Baio et al., 2018; Fountain et al., 2012; Constantine et al., 2020; Wiggins et al., 2020; Hall-Lange et al., 2021; Young et al., 2024)









HOW? by…

Increasing capacity in schools and local community;

Reducing barriers to accessing autism diagnostic evaluation;

Meeting families where they are

In a nutshell:

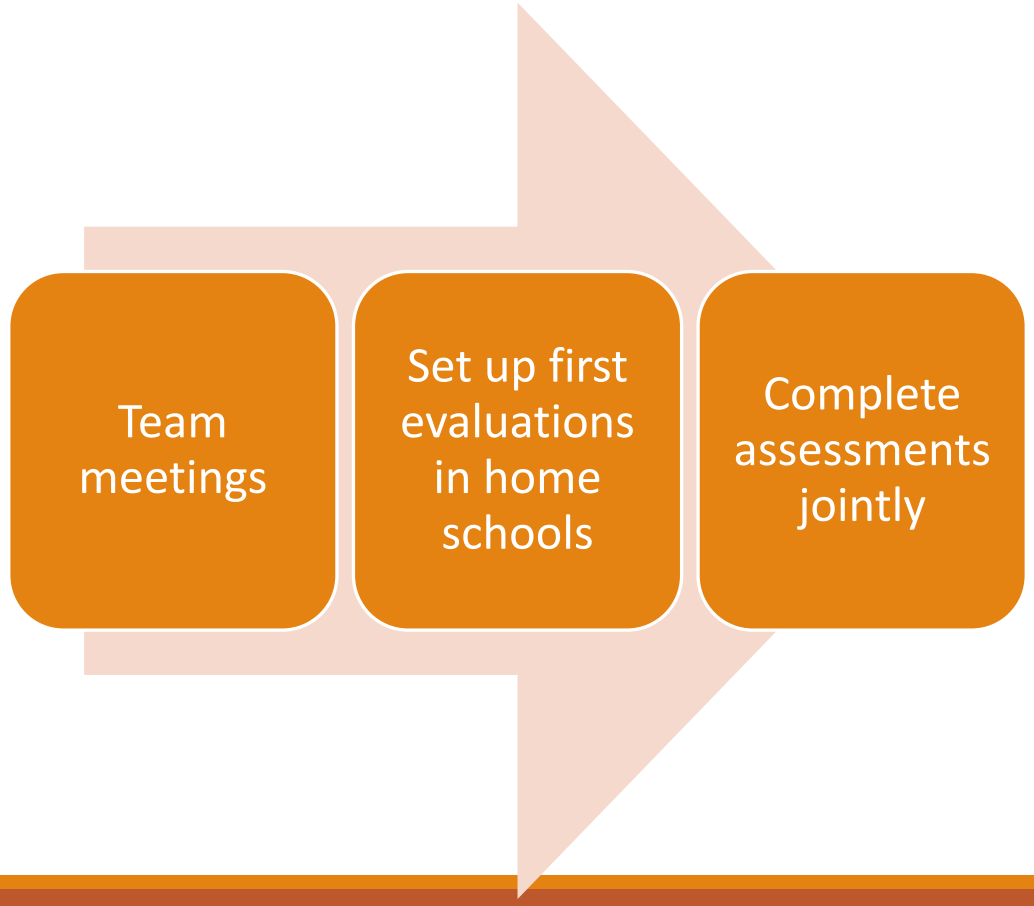
CASCADES provides…

- **Training** and consultation
- **Partnership in assessing** Autism and services
- **Improved collateral information,** resulting in improved identification of girls, as an example
- **Reduced burden** for families

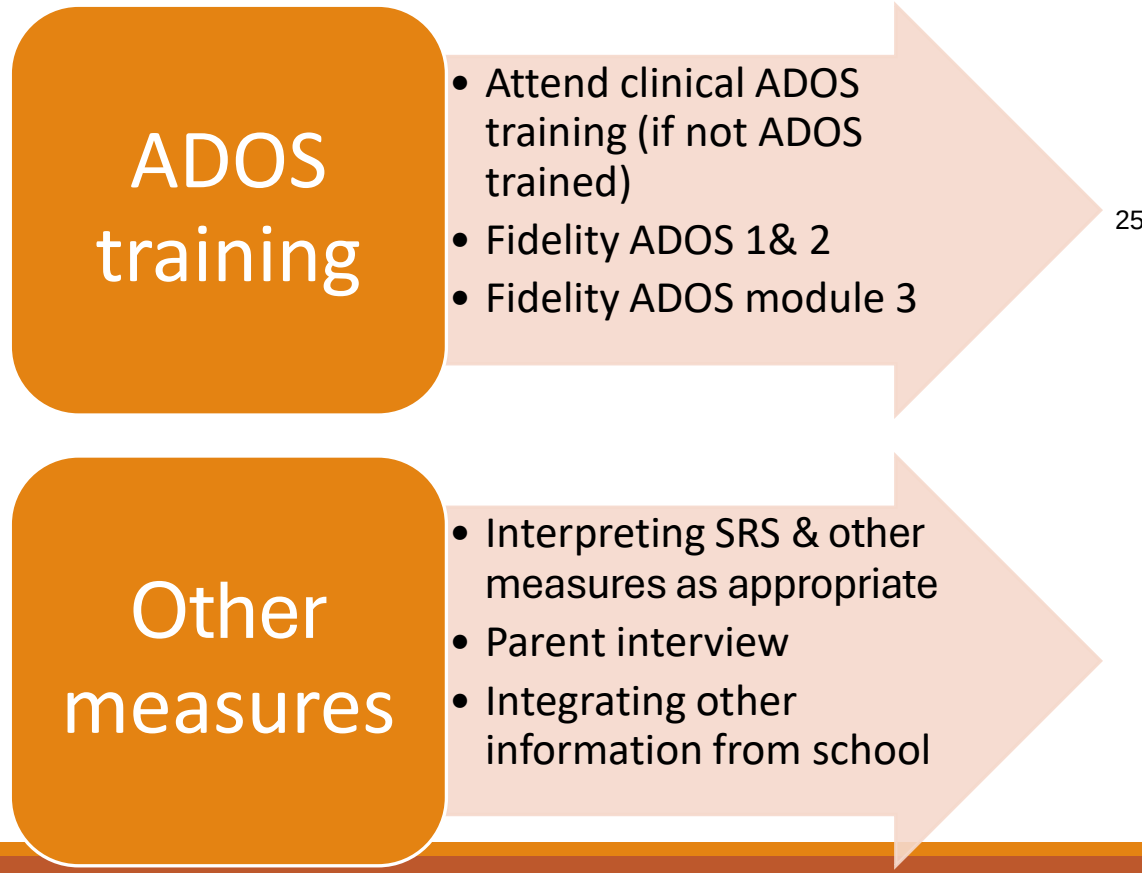
Launching CASCADES

Recommended steps/procedures for new school teams

Processes: Year 1

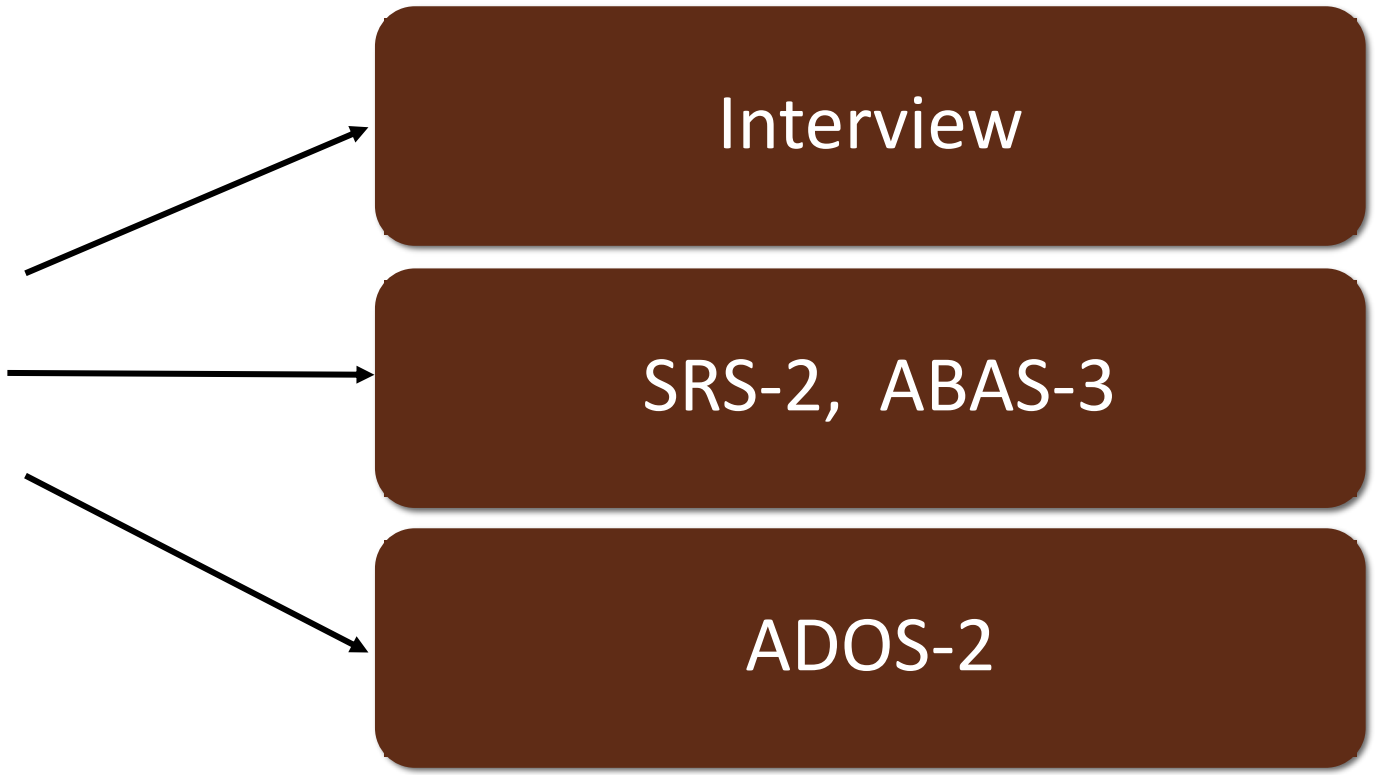


Diagnostic training: Year 1



Evaluation tools

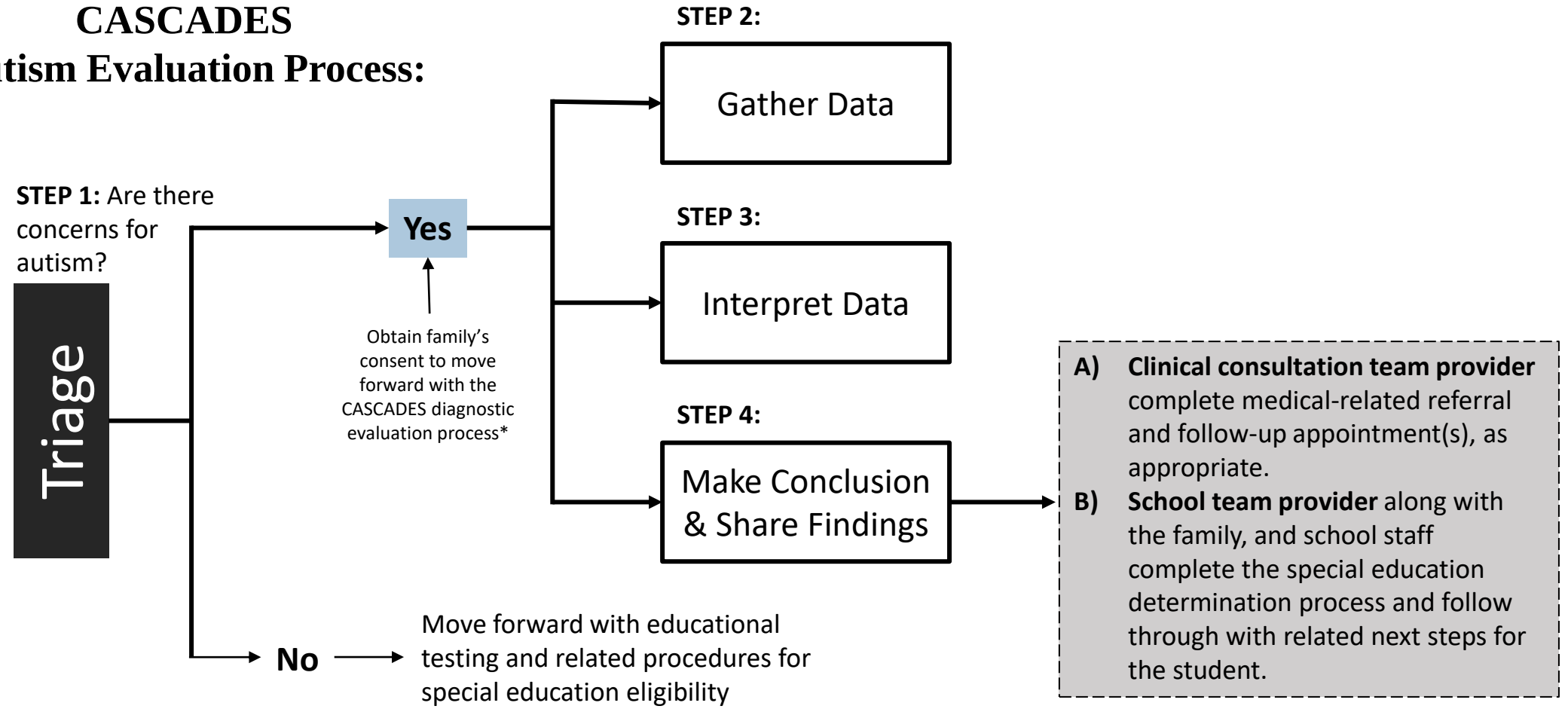
Typically used as part of the CASCADES autism evaluation process.



Interpretation of data involved:

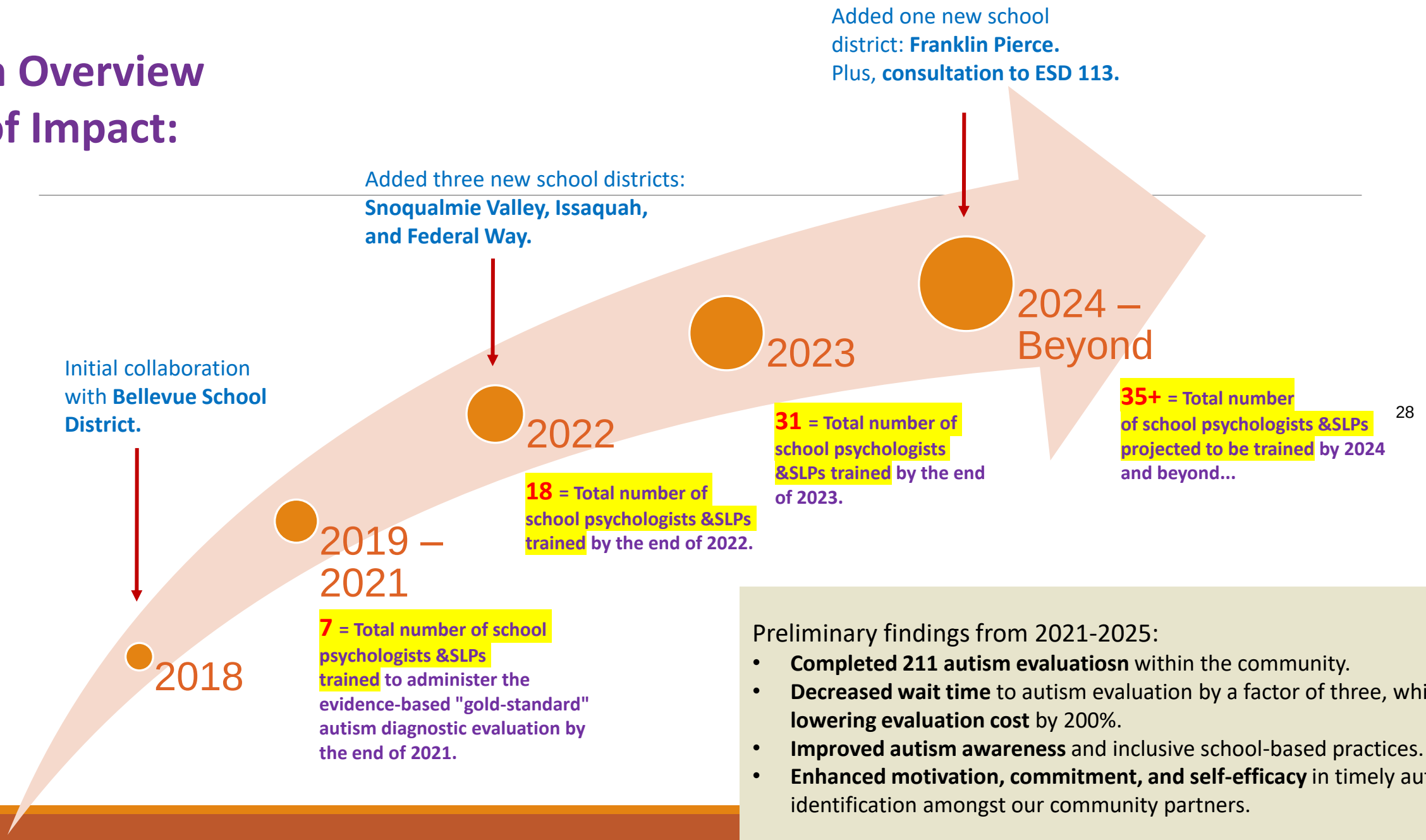
1) Review of caregiver interview on the student's developmental history
2) Review of data gathered from evaluation tools
3) Review of other available documentation/data source, such as IEP or medical chart/reports

CASCADES
Autism Evaluation Process:



*Families will be established as COE patients; school will send referral form via email
Process may differ with local COE

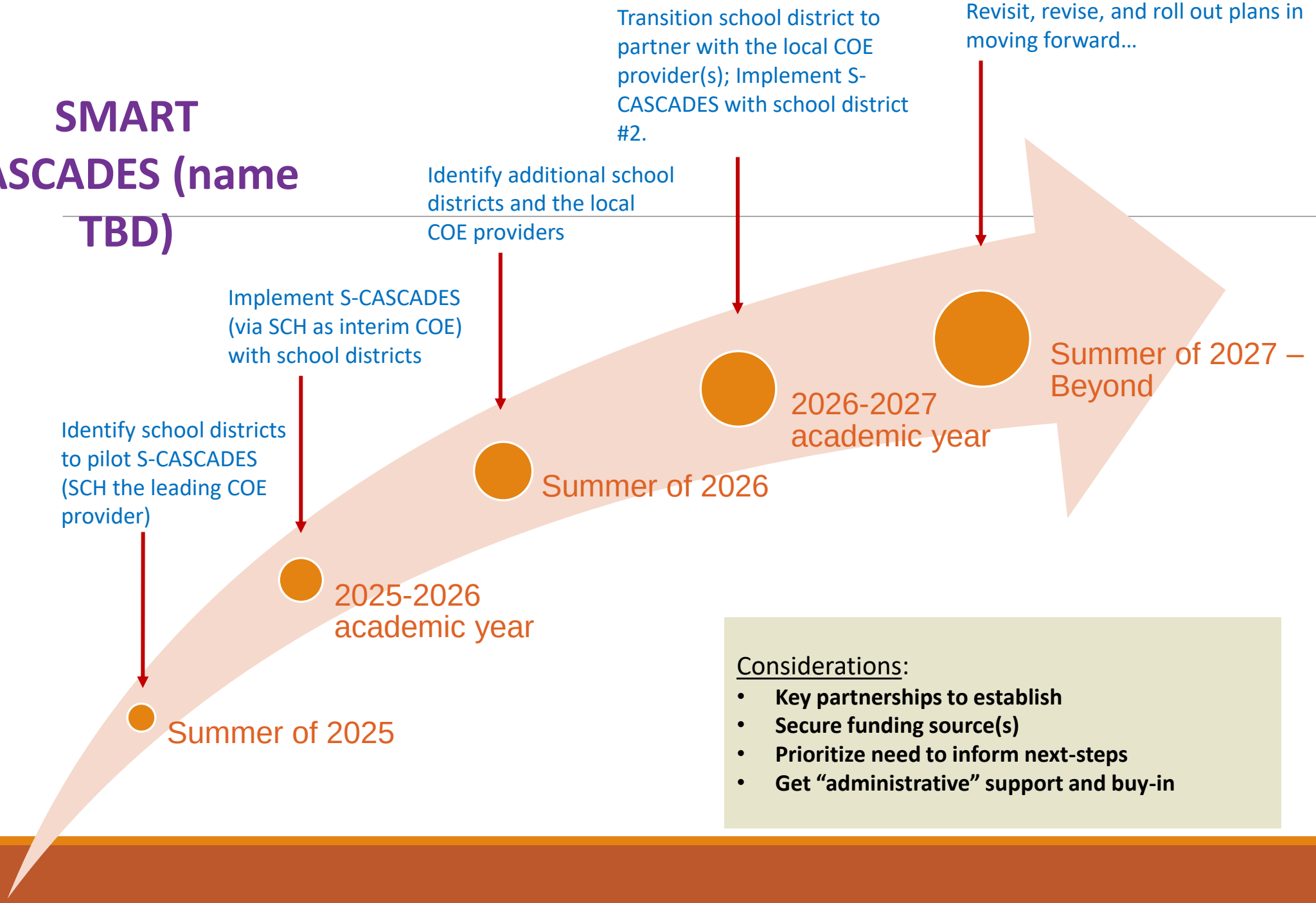
An Overview of Impact:



Preliminary findings from 2021-2025:

- **Completed 211 autism evaluatiosn** within the community.
- **Decreased wait time** to autism evaluation by a factor of three, while **lowering evaluation cost** by 200%.
- **Improved autism awareness** and inclusive school-based practices.
- **Enhanced motivation, commitment, and self-efficacy** in timely autism identification amongst our community partners.

SMART CASCADES (name TBD)



Considerations:

- **Key partnerships to establish**
- **Secure funding source(s)**
- **Prioritize need to inform next-steps**
- **Get "administrative" support and buy-in**



Questions?
Comments?

May 19, 2026
Budget Update

Janette Jeffris, Director of Fiscal Services

Tonight's Agenda

- Capital Projects Review
- Capital Projects Forecast
- 26-27 Projections
- 26-27 Staffing Impacts
- 27-30 Projections
- What's coming up

Capital Projects Fund

- long-term investments in district facilities and infrastructure rather than day-to-day operating costs
- “major capital purposes”- construction, modernization, land acquisition, and major facility improvements

Capital Projects

- Restricted revenues and associated expenses are tracked as needed

SeaTech Maintenance Fund

SE WA Transportation Co-Operative Maintenance Fund

ERATE Fund

WWCCF Infants & Toddlers

Commerce Lighting Grant

Athletic Levy

SeaTech Maintenance Fund

$9,969.66

Funds from partner districts when SeaTech opened.

SeaTech may chose to continue to contribute leftover funds from operations.

SE WA Transportation Co-operative

$160,887

Funds from partner districts annually per operating agreement.

ERATE

$196,314.48

Funds from reimbursements from prior projects.

Funds will be used to cover district portion (20%) of future ERATE infrastructure projects.

WWCCF Infants & Toddlers

$278,630

Funds are from Sherwood Trust for classroom conversion for an infants & toddlers space Summer 2026.

Total project is anticipated to be $552,230

Plus $125,550 for a playground

Commerce Lighting Grant

-$1,170,177.25

We are waiting for reimbursement of this project.

Total grant is $1,286,672

Reimbursement will be received by end of August 2026

Athletic Levy

-$2,184,565

Projects were front funded via a long-term loan

Loan will be repaid over the period of tax collections

Projects are complete and are pending closeouts

Miscellaneous Unassigned Funds

$7,133,500

Funds available to cover major capital projects- construction

modernization

land acquisition

major facility improvements

Projects on the Horizon (5 yrs)

- Edison Roof- $800K
- WWCCF Boiler- $100K
- WWHS Track Fencing/Walkway Revision- $100K
- Berney Playground Asphalt Repair- $50K
- Berney Cedar Siding Replacement- $100K
- Garrison Gym Blacktop Repair- $50K
- SeaTech Boilers & Cooling Tower- $500K
- Playground Safety- TBD

Total Costs: $1,700,000

Indoor Training Facility- $1M-$1.2M

Project was NOT included in the scope of work for the athletic levy

Coaches feel this is a large need

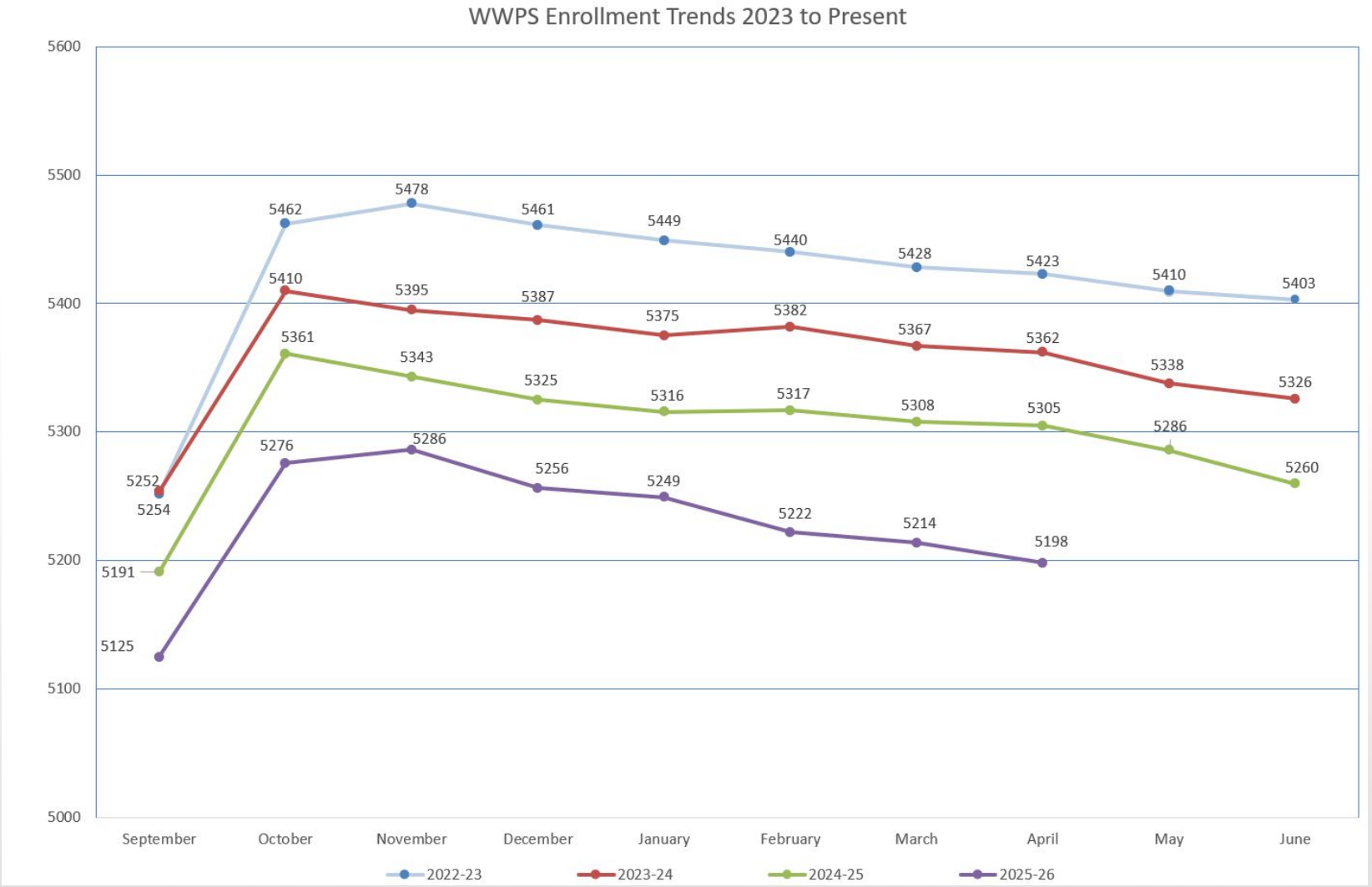
Community/Private Funding: up to $750,000

District Contribution: $250,000

Walla Walla Public Schools



Enrollment Trend



Enrollment Projections 2026-2028

	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
2026	313	329	363	344	336	371	394	398	391	415	421	480	456
2027	313	313	329	363	344	336	371	394	398	391	415	421	480
2028	313	313	313	329	363	344	336	371	394	398	391	415	421

-81 -82 -147

Loss of 310

2026-27 Projected Enrollment

	2025-26 Budgeted (F-195)	2025-26 Enrollment (Dec)	2026-27 Projected
K-12	4514	4473	4386
ALE	408	420	422
Total FTE	4922	4893	4808
Running Start	144	159	142
Dropout Re (OD)	93	85	85
TTK	70	88	73
Total Apportionment (with TTK)	5229	5225	5109
Total Apportionment (w/out TTK)	5159	5137	5035

26-27 Revenue Projections

Revenue Changes

Levy/LEA= +660,000

TTK Reduction= -213,400

Stronger Schools Grants= -600,000

Title 1 Increase= +500,000

Enrollment Loss= -1,255,824

Proj Inc. Apportionment= +2,503,000

Transportation Operations= +107,000

Total Revenue: $105M

26-27 Expenditures Projections

Expense Changes

Mandatory Step Increase= +639,000

Mandatory SEBB Increase= +600,000

Negotiated 2.6% Salary Increase= +1,826,000

Technology Replacement Cycle= +300,000

Curriculum Adoption Budget= +600,000

Staffing Changes= -1,034,000

26-27 Expenditures Projections

Expense Changes

Staffing Changes= -185,500

Online Services= -96,000

Phone System Savings= -50,000

Capital Projects Transfer= -400,000

Curriculum Budget Reduction= -200,000 (one year only)

Total Expenses: $105.8M

1 TK Classroom= 216,000

26-27 Staffing Impacts

Our District's Stance to Address Declining Enrollment

- Reduce staffing through attrition (retirements/resignations)
- Review each vacancy for continued need
- Prioritize internal placements before external hiring
- Result: Reduction of 12 certificated, 8 classified, and 1 administrative positions

2027-2030 Projections

	2026-2027	2027-2028	2028-2029	2029-2030
Anticipated Beginning Fund Balance	$13,000,000	$12,200,000.00	$11,376,000.00	$10,527,280.00
Anticipated Revenues (26-27 +3%)	$105,000,000	$108,150,000	$111,394,500	$114,736,335
Anticipated Expenses (26-27 +3%)	$105,800,000	$108,974,000	$112,243,220	$115,610,517
Enrollment Revenue Loss		-$1,407,000	-$1,219,000	-$1,260,000
Staffing/Expense Reduction		-$1,407,000	-$1,219,000	-$1,260,000
	$12,200,000	$11,376,000	$10,527,280	$9,653,098
% Fund Balance	*11.53%*	*10.44%*	*9.38%*	*8.35%*
99.5% Expenses	*$12,729,000*	*$10,513,870*	*$9,869,496*	*$8,971,151*
99% Expenses	*$13,258,000*	*$11,058,740*	*$10,430,712*	*$9,549,204*
	12.53%	10.28%	9.39%	8.35%
Enrollment Reduction	105	134	106	105
Per Pupil Rate	$10,291.15	$10,500.00	$11,500.00	$12,000.00

What's coming up?

- June 2nd- Review of "Other Funds"
- Weeks of July 6th & 13th- Budget Hearing Newspaper Ad
- July 21st- Budget hearing and adoption