



CITY/BOROUGH OF JUNEAU
Engineering Department
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JSD/CBJ JOINT FACILITY COMMITTEE

CHILD CARE IN JSD FACILITIES – SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

PURPOSE

Mayor Beth Weldon charged the JSD/CBJ Joint Facility Committee to investigate the use of JSD facilities for child care. For the purposes of this paper Child Care has been divided into two groups as follows: Infant Care for children ages zero to three (0-3) and Pre-K for children ages three to five (3-5).

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The following individuals participated in the development of the findings and conclusion of this paper:

Mary Becker	Chair, CBJ Assembly
Brian Holst	President, JSD Board
Dan Debartolo	Vice President, JSD Board
Wade Bryson	CBJ Assembly
Carole Triem	CBJ Assembly
Steve Whitney	JSD Board
Bridget Weiss	JSD Superintendent
Nathan Coffee	CBJ City Architect

CURRENT CHILD CARE PROGRAMS

The Juneau School District (JSD) currently houses Pre-K programs in their elementary schools. The Pre-K programs serve children between the ages of three to five years old. JSD does not provide any Infant Care programs for children between the ages of zero to three years old. There is currently a wait list to enroll in JSD Pre-K programs. A summary of current Pre-K programs is provided below:

School	Pre-K Type	Room #	Seats Available	Total # of Students	# of Staff	Hours
MRCS	Kinder Ready	358	16-20	21	1 teacher 2.5 paras	Two Sessions: 8:00 - 11:00 11:30 - 2:30 Tues-Friday
HBVW	Kinder Ready	108	16-20	20	1 teacher 1 para	Two Sessions: 8:00 - 11:00 11:30 - 2:30 Tues-Friday
GV	Kinder Ready	110	16 -20	22	1 teacher 1.5 para	Two Sessions: 8:00 - 11:00 11:30 - 2:30 *next year will be 8:00 - 1:30 one session and M-F
MRCS	SPED-Integrated	356	8 IEP 5-8 Peers x 2	29	1 teacher 2.5 paras	Two Sessions: 8:00 - 10:30 12:00 - 2:30 Tues-Friday
MRCS	SPED-Integrated	357	10 IEP 3-5 Peers	17	1 teacher 2.5 paras	One Session: 8:00 - 12:00 (intensive population) Tues-Friday
HBVW	SPED-Integrated	109	8 IEP 5-8 Peers x 2	21	1 teacher 2.5 paras	Two Sessions: 8:00 - 10:30 12:00 - 2:30 Tues-Friday
GV	SPED-Integrated	112	8 IEP 5-8 Peers x2	25	1 teacher 2.5 paras	Two Sessions: 8:00 - 10:30 12:00 - 2:30 Tues-Friday
GAST	SPED-Integrated	124	8 IEP 5-8 Peers x 2	22	1 teacher 2.5 paras	Two Sessions: 8:00 - 10:30 11:30 - 2:30 Tues-Friday
RVBD	SPED-Integrated	23	8 IEP 5-8 Peers x 2	22	1 teacher 2.5 paras	Two Sessions: 8:00 - 10:30 12:00 - 2:30 Tues-Friday

AB	SPED-Integrated	212	8 IEP 5-8 Peers	23	1 teacher 2.5 paras	Two Sessions: 8:00 - 10:30 12:00 - 2:30 Tues-Friday
MB	Children's House (PK/K)	320/321	7 PK students (with 7 Ks)	7	1 teacher 3 paras	7:00 - 5:00 option for care Class is 8:00 - 2:30 M-F
MRCS	Head Start	169	20	20	1 teacher 2 paras	One session 8-12
GAST	Head Start	129	19	19	1 teacher 2 paras	One session 8:30-12:30

POTENTIAL EXPANSION OF CHILD CARE PROGRAMS in JSD

AVAILABLE SPACE: Currently, the only *unused* space available for child care programs in JSD facilities are two modular classrooms at Floyd Dryden Middle School. These portable classrooms are detached from the main school building but lack water and sewer service. Each portable classroom is approximately 960 square feet. Facility improvements to add water and sewer service would be required if these portables were to be utilized for child care programs. Future space availability in the elementary schools is dependent on future enrollment fluctuation and repurposing of some currently used spaces. *There are classrooms that could be made available for additional Pre-K programming in some schools with relocation of existing uses.*

MAXIMIZING CURRENT SPACE: JSD is investigating expanding the hours of operation of some of their Pre-K programs to provide full school day programs and even after-school care for working parents. This is one way that the JSD could increase the number of children who participate in their Pre-K programs. *In addition, JSD has utilized all current funding sources to expand in the past year from 11 programs to 13 programs. JSD is poised to add more programs as funding and concurrent space is made available.*

INFANT CARE (0-3): JSD has not previously provided child care programs for children younger than three years old. Child care requirements for younger children are different than those applied to Pre-K children, Without an extensive effort and resources that are not readily available, expanding the JSD's programs to address infant care (0-3) would likely be a time-consuming process that would require significant legal and administrative review of procedures and policies. *For this reason the Joint Facilities Committee found it more appropriate for JSD to focus on expansion of current Pre-K programs.*

PRIVATE OPERATORS IN JSD FACILITIES: JSD currently has two Head Start Pre-K programs that operate within their school facilities. This model of delivery has been sustainable. However, additional legal guidelines to delineate the responsibilities of each party are required making it a more cumbersome delivery model when compared to a JSD operated Pre-K. In addition, the agreement with Head Start is plausible as Head Start is a non-profit agency. In either case (privately operated versus JSD operated), the Pre-K instructors must be certified

staff if the program is deemed an educational program and is housed in a school. *JSD will continue to evaluate private operator requests on a case-by-case basis.*

CHILD CARE FUNDING

Current JSD Pre-K programs are funded in a variety of ways;

- Special Education Integrated Program – Federal pass-through funding and peer group tuition
- Kinder-Ready Program – CBJ, STEPS grant funding, tuition fees and Alaska Department of Education and Early Development (DEED) grant funding (the DEED grant funding is declining and will likely not exist next year).
- Head Start Program – Federal funding to a private operator.
- Montessori Pre-K Program – Tuition

All JSD programs benefit from State of Alaska funding and local City & Borough of Juneau (CBJ) contribution for school operations as the Pre-K programs are housed in school facilities whose operations are funded by these two sources. In order to maintain current programs and expand Pre-K programs, JSD will need additional funding. *The CBJ is the most likely source to fill this funding shortfall.*

CONCLUSION

JSD is currently utilizing thirteen classrooms to support Early Childhood Learning (Pre-K 3-5). Upon review of current JSD facility use, current JSD programs, and the regulatory requirements for Infant Care, the JSD/CBJ Joint Facility Committee finds that it is more appropriate for JSD to focus on expansion of the existing JSD Pre-K programs rather than introduce Infant Care programs into JSD facilities at this time. The committee recommends that the CBJ Assembly continue to support Pre-K programs at JSD facilities.