
Willamette Education Service District (WESD)

Willamette Career Academy (WCA)

2026 Legislative Capital Request

\$1.8 million

(\$605,000 for Health Services Program; \$1,195,000 for Dental Program)

The goal:

Sustain programs and partnerships at WCA while expanding opportunities on the Yamhill/Polk side of WESD's service district.

The why:

Provide continued and expanded opportunities to serve students across the region with high demand, high wage jobs directly out of high school.

School districts that utilize WCA are experiencing cuts from Measure 98 (High School Success Act) dollars that our component school districts use to fund student access to valuable CTE programs. ***WCA has agreed not to raise service rates next year, ensuring as many students as possible have access to the valuable opportunities.***

In addition, some schools in our service area (specifically the Yamhill/Polk side of the valley) struggle to access services because of long travel times. Expanding programs to the west side of the valley, especially in critical areas of health services and dental, provides equitable access to these programs.

The what:

1. Provide a bridge of service for WCA in Salem for health services and dental programs, both of which came through grant funding that has already expired or is expiring. **(\$400,000)**
2. Provide continuance of a contract with Salem Health to fund a nurse who teaches real-world health care scenarios and labs, and facilitates student placements at the hospital. **(\$95,000)**

3. Provide initial funding to expand Health Services to an expiring program for Yamhill/Polk:
 1. Staffing (**\$260,000**)
 2. Curriculum (**\$15,000**)
 3. Operations (**\$20,000**)
 4. Capital outlay (**\$15,000**)
4. Provide planning and capital improvements to an existing building on the west side of the valley, as well as initial funding for a Dental program. There is already a secured in-kind donation of equipment from private sources.
 1. Staffing (**\$260,000**)
 2. Curriculum (**\$15,000**)
 3. Operations (**\$120,000**)
 4. Capital outlay and technology for retrofit of existing building for dental program (**\$600,000**)

The who:

WESD, in partnership with two different education partners to expand Health Services and Dental program opportunities for rural Yamhill/Polk schools: Dayton, Amity, Perrydale, McMinnville, Dallas, Sheridan, Willamina, Newberg. In-kind contributions from industry partners will be utilized to furnish the dental program.

The when:

Sustainable funding for current WCA programs fall of 2026; expansion of Health Services program fall of 2026; expansion of Dental program fall of 2027.