



NEWS RELEASE

Waterford School District, 501 N. Cass Lake Road. Waterford, MI 48328

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Waterford School District breaks ground on innovative new Stepanski Early Childhood Center

Waterford School District (WSD) officials, along with key stakeholders and community members, today officially began construction of a new Stepanski Early Childhood Center with a groundbreaking ceremony held at the site.

“This is a great day for Waterford School District,” said WSD Superintendent Scott A. Lindberg. “Research has shown that a child’s experiences during these early years directly affect how the brain develops and, in particular, how those experiences have a long-term impact on the child’s health and ability to learn and succeed in school and in life. I’m proud that WSD is on the cutting-edge of early childhood education by constructing this state-of-the-art center and so grateful to our community for its support.”

Some facts about the new center:

- The build is an investment of \$30 million, paid for through WSD’s 2020 bond.
- All of WSD’s early childhood students will now be under one roof, allowing for better functionality of classrooms and programs.
- The interior will boast an innovative design with 27 interchangeable classrooms to promote enhanced learning opportunities.
- There will be a large motor skills room for more engaging playtime and a messy kitchen learning area where students can be encouraged to participate in hands-on activities.
- The facility will have a welcome center to promote a customer service approach for engaging with families.
- The building will be 67,000 square feet, with an additional 88,000 square feet dedicated solely to an outdoor play area. This playground is inclusive of all accessibility levels.
- The building capacity is just over 600 students.

The new center is scheduled to be completed by fall 2024. Barton Malow is overseeing the construction of the building and French Associates is serving as architect on the project.

WSD early childhood classes are housed at the current Stepanski building and at the Leggett campus. The district serves 3- to 4-year-olds through six different programs: tuition-based preschool, Early On, Early Childhood Special Education, Head Start, Great Start Readiness and child care.

The new center will be the first school built in Waterford School District in 55 years. Mott High and Knudsen Elementary schools were both constructed in 1967.

For more information on the build, visit www.wsdmi.org/stepanskibuild.

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