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

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Benefits and Limitations of Elementary School Sizes: Internal Staff Review

Regional Review:

District	Avg Elem School Enrollment (K-5) in 2018-19
Kennewick	**501**
Pasco	**582**
Richland	**580**
College Place	**663**
Walla Walla	**411**

"Small" Elementary School Review: 2 section school (250-300 students)

Strengths	Limitations
• Overall smaller campus population provides for a more intimate feel for students and parents • Smaller student population allows for a better chance for faculty to maintain a more thorough understanding of students and families	• Only two teachers per grade level places more work on each teachers to develop CFAs, essential standards, and other curriculum-related work • Staff turnover and retirements place a heavier burden/larger impact on building continuity • Team representation in various leadership opportunities is challenging without overloading any one individual • Title and LAP staffing funds are generated by the percentage of students in the building who qualify for Free/Reduced lunch, which often do not cover the costs to fully fund specific faculty • Limited sections per grade can lead to challenges when attempting to separate students and equalize classroom makeup • Enrollment fluctuation (up or down) can lead to challenges (e.g. capping classrooms, blending grades, overload situations) • Non congruence with prototypical model (leads to partial funding of counselors, principals, other staff • Difficult justifying full time specialists (music, pe, library) for such a small population • Can be a challenge serving special population needs (enough EL, SPED, LAP students) to support full time instructors • Less parents/stakeholders to support PTA, carnivals, and other fundraising efforts • Inefficiency related to support services (food service, custodial, front office) • Challenge offering extensions and support classes for students

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

"Medium Sized" Elementary School Review: 4 section school (500-600 students)

Strengths	Limitations
• Grade level representation on various committees can be distributed • Easier to blend students across sections and respond to enrollment fluctuations • Opportunities to collaboratively plan and analyze student growth with different instructional practices is enhanced with more team members to provide input • New teachers have a variety of peers to collaborate with for support • Staff turnover/retirement has less effect on school culture and continuity • For students needing additional support, Title and LAP staff can partner with four grade level teachers to regroup students in a variety of ways to meet a range of student learning needs • When piloting materials, more team members are available to provide input • Financially supports full time specialists/programming • More in line with prototypical model to support full time faculty	• Building a master schedules for common planning time with four teachers at a grade level can be challenging • Subs to cover an entire grade level team, or teams, for building level collaboration during the student day can be more challenging • Less intimate feel due to the larger campus • Larger student population limits the ability for faculty to maintain a thorough understanding of students and families