



Cochrane-Fountain City School District

S2770 State Highway 35 Fountain City, Wisconsin 54629

Mr. Troy White
Superintendent
twhite@cfc.k12.wi.us
608-687-7771 x313

Mr. Steve Stoppelmoor
Principal
sstoppelmoor@cfc.k12.wi.us
608-687-4391 x102

Mrs. Sue McKay
Assistant Principal
smckay@cfc.k12.wi.us
608-687-4391 x106

Larry Cyrus, President
Kalene Engel, Vice President
Niki Secrist, Clerk
Lynn Doelle, Treasurer
Don Babun, Director
Bonnie Breza, Director
Darrin Dillinger, Director

C-FC School District and Early Head Start National Childcare Model

As part of our commitment to the community, the Cochrane-Fountain City School District and Western Dairyland Head Start have offered access to high-quality early childhood education for families in the C-FC district since 2012. This partnership has been for children ages three to five from qualifying families. Along with the Head Start partnership, the school district has provided a 3-year-old program for families that do not qualify for Head Start.

Childcare in the community has changed dramatically since 2019. The private sector has stated it's unable to make enough to pay staff and remain viable as a business, causing a decline in childcare availability. The district's half-day, partial-week structure for the 3-year-old program no longer fits the community need, prompting enrollment to drop below a feasible level to operate. Our childcare desert also contributes to declining enrollment and difficulty attracting and retaining staff.

To address these concerns the Cochrane-Fountain City School District and Western Dairyland Head Start have partnered to implement a childcare facility within the K-12 building. The initial model will support 12 Head Start children and 4 paid spots for C-FC staff/community. Western Dairyland Head Start has reallocated childcare seats to our program, which will provide close to \$500,000 to support the "first ever" childcare model in a school district. This funding will provide for staffing and supplies costs. The Cochrane-Fountain City School District will remodel the building to meet regulations for space to accommodate the program and support the childcare with required maintenance services. Our initial indications show that this falls short of the needs of the district, but it provides what can be currently afforded.

The investment by Western Dairyland Head Start has begun with initial licensing and training. The Cochrane-Fountain City School District is planning on the building renovation this summer. The next steps in the process will be for Western Dairyland Head Start to hire additional staff and purchase materials. The goal will be to provide enrollment information during the fall open house in August 2023, with the program starting in March 2024.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact the Cochrane-Fountain City School District office.

Sincerely,

Troy White, Superintendent
Cochrane-Fountain City School District