



# **MENASHA**

**JOINT SCHOOL DISTRICT**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:  
MENASHA JOINT SCHOOL DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENT**

The Menasha Joint School District is pleased to announce that we are having significant discussions to fill a critical community need: accessible and affordable childcare, and early childhood education. These discussions involve utilizing the UW-Oshkosh Fox Cities campus to keep the valuable resources of the property to benefit the community as a whole.

The Menasha Joint School District has a bold vision: to establish multiple, high-quality childcare centers within the former UW-Fox footprint. Additionally, the District remains dedicated to preserving the planetarium, current childcare center, museum space, community gardens, and performing arts center to maximize educational opportunities for children and residents throughout the region. Currently, Winnebago County and Outagamie County jointly own the land and facilities of the Menasha campus.

We recognize these parcels as tremendous community assets, and we recognize the public desire to keep these resources to continue to benefit the Menasha area.

Currently, the limited availability of quality childcare within our district poses significant challenges. The recent closure of a childcare facility, coupled with the impending closure of UW-Fox, threatens to further diminish these options. This scarcity, combined with the rising cost of childcare due to state funding cuts, forces many parents to make the difficult choice between their careers and their children's well-being.

This situation not only impacts individual families but also hinders our local economy. When parents are forced out of the workforce, our community loses valuable talent and experiences a decline in disposable income.

These child care centers will offer competitive wages and benefits for childcare staff, assisting us in attracting and retaining a highly skilled and dedicated workforce. The centers will provide a variety of learning models to cater to the diverse needs and preferences of our families. Importantly, this initiative will ensure affordability for all families in our community.

These discussions are ongoing, and in collaboration with Outagamie and Winnebago Counties, we are on a path to foster a thriving community, offer world-class educational opportunities, and to make Menasha one of the most desirable places to raise a family.

We will keep you updated as we continue these conversations and as we have additional information to share with the community.

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