



ALL-AMERICA CITY FINALIST

WALLOWA COUNTY, ORE.

Community Snapshot

Located in the far northeast corner of Oregon, Wallowa County is geographically isolated by rugged mountains and deep canyons. Spanning 3,153 square miles and bordered by the states of Washington and Idaho, the county is home to Hells Canyon National Recreation Area, Wallowa Lake and the Eagle Cap Wilderness Area. Spectacular scenery and unrivaled opportunities for outdoor recreation draw visitors from around the world. The area is steeped in the rich history of the Chief Joseph band of the Nez Perce and the early pioneers. Modern-day residents of the Wallowa Valley enjoy a healthy environment, a strong sense of community and a rural lifestyle. The economy is grounded in traditional farm and forest industries, supported by tourism and the arts.

Community Solutions Action Plan

The Grade-Level Reading initiative offers an opportunity to dramatically change the trajectory for Wallowa County students. Building Healthy Families has created a comprehensive strategy based on the following focus areas:

- **School Readiness:** Coordinate programming so that it is delivered in a more efficient and effective manner, ultimately strengthening the services currently available
- **Student Attendance:** Focus on programming that builds positive adult connections, as well as activities that engage students in enriching hands-on curricula and opportunities
- **Grade-Level Reading:** Develop programming that supports students and families and increases scores on third-grade reading assessments
- **Summer Learning:** Provide educational, hands-on activities for kids and families at community events, coordinate and expand summer programming to all three school districts and work with city and county libraries to offer high-quality summer reading programs

Partnerships

Wallowa County's plan to ensure that more children are reading at grade level by the end of third grade was developed by Building Healthy Families, in partnership with Wallowa County Schools and collaborating public and private community agencies, medical providers, county and city libraries, child care and day care providers and civic organizations.

DEMOGRAPHICS

- **7,008 residents**
- **1,000 students**
- **46 percent of students qualify for free or reduced-price meals**
- **89.1 percent of third graders read at grade level (state standard)**
- **82 percent graduation rate**
- **92 percent of students attend school daily**
- **Minimal number of summer learning opportunities**

GOALS

- **Reach 90 percent of families with children 0-5 through at least one program each year**
- **Maintain 95 percent daily attendance**
- **Increase percentage of students reading at grade level to 95 percent**
- **Partner with community agencies to provide three weeks of summer programming to each of the three school districts**
"Through strong partnerships and collaboration, programs and services were developed to increase early literacy, improve the quality of child care, strengthen family functioning and provide parent education."