

# Our Schools

WINTER 2020 NEWSLETTER



## FEATURE ARTICLES

- The 2020 capital projects bond
- High school boundary changes going into effect fall 2020
- Board welcomes two new members



# Superintendent message

It is hard to believe we are half way through the school year. I cannot wait to see what possibilities and opportunities 2020 has in store for our students!

One opportunity I am focused on for our entire district is a particularly significant day: April 28, which is a special election day. Like many other local school districts, Everett Public Schools has an important measure to go before the voters: a \$317.4 million bond measure.

This bond provides funding for safety and security, STEM, facilities and school construction – all items I believe to be critical. They directly support our district mission and vision, focused on success for each student. You can read more about these projects in this newsletter.

As a district, we work hard to ensure our parents and community members are informed about the measures that will be on the ballot. School funding can be a confusing topic. Different states have different approaches to funding schools. In Washington State, school districts rely on local levies and bonds to fund essential needs, which are not funded by federal or state dollars.

There are approximately 82,000 voters in the Everett School District! Bonds require 60% super majority voter approval.

During the weeks and months ahead, we are actively communicating information about these measures to our community. We use social media, print mailers and in-person meetings to share information.

Upcoming Community Open House meetings are scheduled, and we encourage everyone to attend one:

- **Thursday, February 6**  
6 – 7 p.m.  
Cascade High School
- **Thursday, February 13**  
6 – 7 p.m.  
Everett High School
- **Tuesday, February 25**  
6 – 7 p.m.  
Jackson High School

In addition to providing information at in-person meetings with community members, we have information and videos posted on our district website at [www.everettsd.org/bond2020](http://www.everettsd.org/bond2020) and related information on our social media pages.

Here's to a Happy New Year for all our Everett Public Schools' students, families, staff and community!



Dr. Ian B. Saltzman  
Superintendent



## The 2020 capital projects bond

Everett Public Schools is placing a \$317.4 million bond on the April 2020 ballot. This measure will provide crucial funding to build permanent classroom space to accommodate growth, improve safety and security and make necessary school improvements.

*The bond is important because capital bonds are really the only way the district can fund major construction projects for public schools in our state.*

"It is the only way districts can get money needed to keep roofs in good shape, heating and cooling systems working, and flooring replaced, but also to build permanent space for the growth the district is experiencing," states Mike Gunn, executive director, facilities and operations.

The 2020 bond focuses on:



STEM



Safety



Equity  
& Space

*Upcoming Community Open House meetings are scheduled, and we encourage everyone to attend one:"*

THURSDAY, 

**FEB 6**

6 – 7 p.m.

**CASCADE  
HIGH SCHOOL**

801 E Casino Road  
Everett WA 98203

THURSDAY, 

**FEB 13**

6 – 7 p.m.

**EVERETT  
HIGH SCHOOL**

2416 Colby Avenue  
Everett WA 98201

TUESDAY, 

**FEB 25**

6 – 7 p.m.

**JACKSON  
HIGH SCHOOL**

1508 136th St. SE  
Mill Creek WA 98012



# STEM

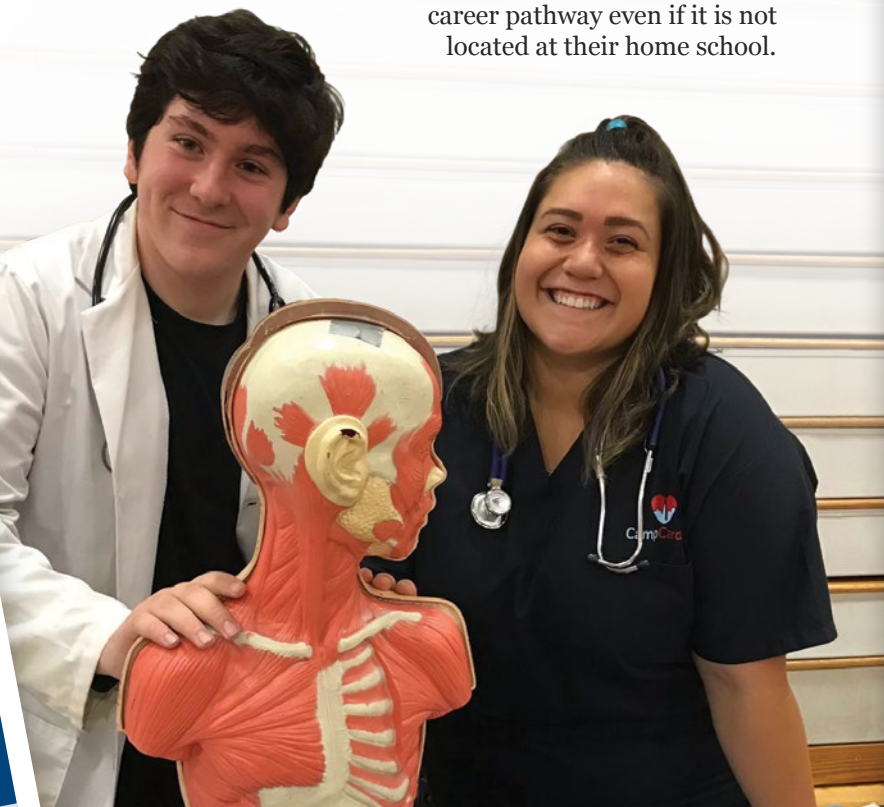


With so many STEM-related industries right in our backyard, Everett Public Schools continues its commitment to design experiences introducing students to careers in those fields. In partnership with economic analysts and representatives from labor, industry, higher education and government, the district identified six career pathways. “Some of those pathways can be implemented in any of our high schools, but three of them have specific facilities requirements,” says Dr. Dana Riley Black, assistant superintendent, curriculum, assessment and career connected learning.

The bond will provide funding to complete the three site-specific career connected pathways, giving our students the facilities and tools necessary in those programs, including:

- Modernizing and expanding Cascade High School’s science building for science classrooms and Aerospace & Advanced Manufacturing Pathway
- Modernizing Everett High School’s vocational building for Medical & Health Careers Pathway
- Upgrading six classrooms at Jackson High School for science classrooms to meet current science standards and Information & Communication Pathway

There is a mismatch between the innovative courses offered and facilities they are taught in, many of which do not support the type of learning happening in schools today. “Our advanced manufacturing program is sharing space with our auto shop. The lack of space limits our ability to have all the specific materials needed to effectively support both highly-valuable programs,” says Michael Takayoshi, principal, Cascade High School. Each high school student has the opportunity to explore any career pathway even if it is not located at their home school.



# Safety



## A safe learning environment is essential for students of all ages.

The bond will fund projects designed to give the district more control over school safety, including:

- Secure locks and keying systems added districtwide, giving teachers the ability to lock their classroom doors from the inside
- Access control systems at two high schools
- Upgrades to fire alarm systems, security systems and fencing
- Expanding parking lots at Jefferson and Emerson elementary schools

Increasing safety and security across the district creates a secure environment where students can come to school confident and focused on learning. In addition to building safety, the bond will also provide funding to upgrade the technology infrastructure, including:

- Upgrading electrical systems district-wide
- Modernizing student information systems

These projects will provide a secure platform for web-based applications to take full advantage of the district’s 1:1 technology initiative. This work is necessary as part of the district’s ongoing efforts to maintain our technology systems, equipment and infrastructure, improve network availability and minimize network downtime.

# Equity and Space



The bond will provide funding to ensure students have enough room to learn by adding 21st century classroom space, and modernizing and repairing building systems, which are not only important for providing space to learn, but also equity for our students. Many people think equity in education means everyone getting the same thing, but it actually means everyone gets access to what they need to be successful. Currently, at some of our schools, there are no designated break-out spaces and teachers make use of whatever space they can find for individual and small group instruction. Also, at some schools, specialists are housed in closets that have been converted to offices, which limits the ability of the specialists to meet with students in a productive manner. These are just some examples of the inequities existing between the newer more modern designed schools and the older schools across the district.

No matter which school a student attends in the district, that student should have the same access to modern facilities and the opportunities afforded by access to those 21st century learning spaces. "Our students are our future. It is our duty and responsibility to provide opportunities fairly and consistently for all students to be successful. It is not only critical for our district but our community, our nation and our world!" states Joi Odom Grant, director equity and access.

The elementary classroom additions provided with the bond package are needed to accommodate enrollment growth far exceeding permanent building capacities of elementary schools, reduce overcrowding, keep class sizes low and keep more students in their neighborhood schools.

In this case, space is an equity issue. The bond package will add 36 classroom additions across the district and another 22 additional classrooms with the replacement of Madison, Jackson and Lowell elementary schools, increasing permanent building capacities across the district by the equivalent of two new elementary schools. And, at a much lower cost than building a new elementary school.

Custodians and facilities staff work hard to keep all buildings running efficiently, especially the old buildings which have constant maintenance. "The heat is always going out. It's hot in one area, it's cool in another," says Amanda Overly, principal at Madison Elementary. "The infrastructure of the buildings themselves are wearing out. Jackson, Madison and Lowell elementary schools are all about 70 years old and they are just worn out," said Mike Gunn, executive director, facilities and operations. The three aging schools have reached the end of their useful life. They were not built to meet today's safety standards, such as seismic codes.

Equitable access to high-quality facilities all over the district will be provided by this bond package. Repairing aging school systems in our schools like HVAC, roofing and flooring replacements, will extend the longevity of schools as well as addressing the health of the schools.

To find out more details on all of the bond 2020 projects, visit [www.everettsd.org/bond2020](http://www.everettsd.org/bond2020).



\$33.7M	Add 36 new elementary classrooms at 8 schools
\$165M	Replace Madison, Jackson, Lowell elementary schools
\$46.4M	Modernize and upgrade buildings for STEM career pathways and new science standards
\$33.3M	Modernize and upgrade schools cafeterias, kitchens and auditoriums
\$17.9M	Upgrade HVAC, roofing and flooring systems
\$5.7M	Improve safety and security
\$6.2M	Replace aging playground equipment, synthetic turf and track at Memorial Stadium and other playfields
\$8.9M	Upgrade technology infrastructure

## WHY NO HIGH SCHOOL on the bond?

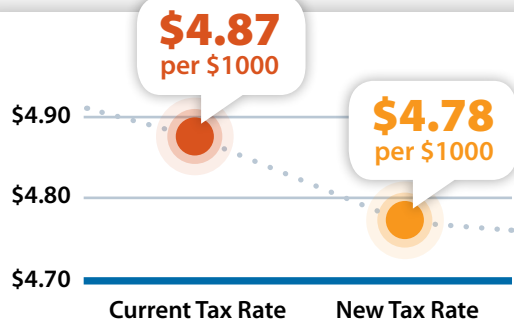
When the 33-member capital bond planning committee launched, many members indicated they wanted a new high school in the south end on the next bond. Throughout the planning process, many of their opinions changed and their final recommendation to the board did not include a new high school. Several of those reasons include:

- During the committee's work the board in a separate action adopted changes to high school boundaries designed to provide relief from the overcrowding at Jackson High School for the next 5-10 years.
- There were many high priority needs for capital bond funding. The high school boundary change mitigated the need to build a new high school immediately. Other projects, such as rebuilding aged elementary schools, did not have a mitigation and the committee felt could not be ignored.
- Keeping a new high school off the bond allowed the committee to create a proposal funding critical capital projects AND reduce the tax rate.
- The projects chosen will help improve equity throughout the district and address safety before growth. It addresses aging facilities, the need for high school STEM facilities and the need for elementary classrooms, as well as a wide variety of other facility needs.
- Committee members knew a new high school was featured on bond proposals in 2014 and 2018 and both failed to win approval from voters.
- From a committee member: "I feel the voters have been clear in the last two bonds that they don't want this. It would feel like we aren't listening if we try again."

"We decided the best course of action would be to use this time and this money to actually upgrade the existing schools and create additional space, create a better environment, create a place where the Everett School District can really be proud," Justin Tidwell, capital bond planning committee member.

# What will the capital bond cost?

The current tax rate for Everett Public Schools is \$4.87 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation. If approved April 28, the new rate would decrease to \$4.78 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation.

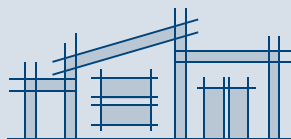


*"If approved April 28, the new rate would decrease to \$4.78 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation."*



# What is the difference between capital bonds and levies and why are they so difficult to pass?

Capital bonds are used to pay for major school construction projects like new schools, additions and major modernizations and are received by the district in large amounts and paid off in regular installments spread out over 15 to 20 years, much like a home mortgage. Levies are used to pay for ongoing equipment and facility costs like computer replacements, equipment repairs and repainting facilities and are received by the district much like a regular paycheck. Levies are much easier to pass because they only require a simple majority (50% plus 1) for approval whereas bonds require a super majority (60%) for approval.



**BUILDING  
THE FUTURE**

**Capital Bond 2020**

EVERETT PUBLIC SCHOOLS

# DISTRICT GRADUATION RATES CONTINUE TO CLIMB *year after year*



Everett Public Schools celebrates another year of achieving a record high graduation rate. The four-year, or "on-time" graduation rate, is 95.9 percent – the highest rate on record for the district. The five-year graduation rate is 96.5 percent, also the highest rate on record. The special education graduation rate is 84.2% and the ELL graduation rate is 87.4%.

*It is a focus for everyone, no matter their role in our school district, to ensure each one of our students graduates ready for college and career.*

The increase in graduation rates could only be accomplished through the strategically aligned work of district and school staff. It is a focus for everyone, no matter their role in our school district, to ensure each one of our students graduates ready for college and career.





# We are hiring!

If you have ever wanted to help in a classroom, or lend your talents at a school, apply to be a classroom paraeducator, a food and nutrition employee, or a school office professional! Everett Public Schools is hiring both substitute and regular positions, full- and part-time.

Paraeducators in Everett Public Schools provide instructional and functional support to classroom teachers supporting student learning. They may assist with playground supervision, small group instruction, student hygienic or nutritional needs or assist a student with mobility in a school.

Office professionals assist school staff, parents and others in school offices as well as the district central offices. Health Room Assistants serve students in the school health room under the direction of the school nurse.

Food and Nutrition staff prepare and serve student breakfasts and lunches.

Substitute rates of pay have the potential to increase with long-term assignments. Beginning rates are:

- **Paraeducator substitute:** \$16.85/hour
- **Office personnel substitute:** \$16.11/hour
- **Food and Nutrition substitute:** \$16.34/hour
- **Health Room Assistant substitute:** \$16.85/hour

Substitute custodians are responsible for the cleanliness in and outside of the school building.

- **Custodian substitute:** \$20.60/hour

Look for the Employment icon on [www.everettsd.org](http://www.everettsd.org) to apply.



# Attendance matters – every day, on time, ready to learn

Students who miss many days of school are academically at risk. Chronic absenteeism, missing 10 percent or more school days due to absence for any reason (excused, unexcused absences or suspensions), can translate into third graders unable to master reading, sixth graders failing subjects and ninth graders dropping out of high school.

Chronic absence is a solvable problem. Everett Public Schools is sharing this information with parents to help mitigate chronic absenteeism. Attending school regularly helps children feel better about school and themselves and good attendance will help children do well in high school, college and in their future careers.

## *Attending school regularly helps children feel better about school and themselves*

Tips for what families can do at home to ensure regular attendance include; setting a regular bedtime and morning routine, laying out clothes and pack backpack the night before, not letting a child stay home unless they are truly sick (keep in mind complaints of stomachache or headache can be a sign of anxiety and not a reason to stay home) and avoiding medical appointments and extended trips when school is in session. If a child seems anxious about going to school, talk to teachers, school counselors or other parents for advice on how to help them feel comfortable and excited about learning.

An infographic titled "Attendance Matters!" with a background of colorful hands. It provides statistics on chronic absenteeism and offers tips for parents and students.

**Attendance Matters!**  
Help your child succeed in school by building the habit of excellent attendance early.

**CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM IS DEFINED AS MISSING:**  
**10%** OF THE SCHOOL YEAR  
**18** OR MORE DAYS A YEAR  
**TWO** OR MORE DAYS EVERY MONTH

**DID YOU KNOW?**  
Starting in kindergarten, too many absences can cause children to fall behind in school.  
Students can still fall behind if they miss just a day or two days every few weeks.  
BEING LATE TO SCHOOL MAY LEAD TO POOR ATTENDANCE.  
Absences can affect the whole classroom if the teacher must slow down learning to help children catch up.  
Attending school regularly helps children feel better about school and themselves. Good attendance will help children do well in high school, college and in their future careers.

**WHAT CAN YOU DO?**  
✓ Set a regular bedtime and morning routine.  
✓ LAY OUT CLOTHES AND PACK BACKPACK THE NIGHT BEFORE.  
✓ Don't let your child stay home unless they are truly sick. Keep in mind complaints of a stomachache or headache can be a sign of anxiety and not a reason to stay home.  
✓ If your child seems anxious about going to school, talk to teachers, school counselors or other parents for advice on how to help them feel comfortable and excited about learning.  
✓ Develop back-up plans for getting to school if something comes up. Call on a family member, a neighbor or another parent.  
✓ AVOID MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS AND EXTENDED TRIPS WHEN SCHOOL IS IN SESSION.

Chronic absenteeism in kindergarten can predict lower attendance.

EVERETT  
Public Schools

For more information about attendance, visit the Everett Public Schools website [www.everettsd.org](http://www.everettsd.org)

# High school boundary changes going into effect fall 2020

The Everett Public Schools Board of Directors approved an adjustment to high school boundaries in May 2019 to reduce the enrollment at Jackson High School and balance the enrollment throughout the district. The changes take effect fall 2020 for incoming 9th graders living within the transfer area.

The transfer areas chosen were recommended by a community committee based on consideration of the board approved guiding principles and key themes raised by the community. The phasing of the boundary change means that current 9th, 10th and 11th graders living within the affected transfer area do not need to change schools next fall, and the district will continue to provide transportation to their current school. Current 8th graders going into 9th grade next school year who live in the affected transfer area will be provided transportation to their new school.

Please refer to the boundary maps available on the district's website at [www.everettsd.org/boundarymaps](http://www.everettsd.org/boundarymaps). If you live in the transfer area, you should have received several communications from the district in December.

Families who would like to appeal the move can apply for a transfer. Visit our website under the parents tab and click on "school transfers" or email [schooltransfer@everettsd.org](mailto:schooltransfer@everettsd.org) or call 425-385-4070.



## STEM celebration



**Save the date – June 3rd – Edward D. Hansen Conference Center at the Angel of the Winds Arena.**

In the past, the district has hosted a larger "Innovation Expo" filling the entire ice arena with the STEM competition, learning showcases featuring each school and interactive displays from the community focused on career connected learning.

This year, the Innovation Expo is being replaced with the STEM Celebration, which will showcase the district's best 4th and 5th grade and middle school STEM research and design projects. Students will present their projects to judges and the community. The celebration will also feature STEM-related clubs and programs from across the district.

# Board welcomes two new members

This November, voters elected two new members to the Everett School District Board.

## April Berg



April Berg will fill position 2, the seat vacated by the retirement of longtime school board director Carol Andrews. Berg lives in Mill Creek and is planning commissioner for the city. She has six children, two university graduates, two in university, one at Henry M. Jackson High School and one at Heatherwood Middle School.

## Andrew Nicholls



Andrew Nicholls will fill position 1, the seat held by Jamyang Dorjee Nhangkar who was appointed to the board in September 2018. Nicholls is a research social worker with the VA Puget Sound Medical Center and has two children who will soon be entering school in the district's north end.

# WELCOME!





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PO BOX 2098  
Everett, WA 98213



**Board of Directors:** (back row) Pam LeSesne, Traci Mitchell,  
(front row) April Berg, Caroline Mason, Andrew Nicholls

## Board of Directors

- Caroline Mason
- Pam LeSesne
- Traci Mitchell
- April Berg
- Andrew Nicholls

## Superintendent

- Dr. Ian B. Saltzman

### Nondiscrimination statement

Everett Public Schools does not discriminate in any programs or activities on the basis of sex, race, creed, religion, color, national origin, age, veteran or military status, sexual orientation, gender expression or identity, disability, or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following employees have been designated to handle questions and complaints of alleged discrimination:

**Title IX/Civil Rights  
Compliance Officer:**

Mary O'Brien  
425-385-4106  
MO'brien@everettsd.org  
PO Box 2098  
Everett WA 98213

**Section 504 Coordinator:**

Becky Ballbach  
425-385-4063  
RBallbach@everettsd.org  
PO Box 2098  
Everett WA 98213

**ADA Coordinator:**

Randi Seaberg  
425-385-4104  
RSeaberg@everettsd.org  
PO Box 2098  
Everett WA 98213

## Delayed start or closed schools

If we must cancel school or delay the start of school, we will use our parent communication system to call in the morning, typically around 5:30 a.m., with a brief message about the reason for closure or delay. We will also use local media, social media and post the message on our website. If there is no announcement about Everett Public Schools, school is on the regular schedule. More information and resources for school closures or delays is on the district website under the parents tab.

In cases of inclement weather or other emergencies, please:

- Check your email or phone for district messages
- Listen for media announcements
- View the district's website at [www.everettsd.org](http://www.everettsd.org)
- Watch district Facebook, Twitter or Instagram accounts

## Would you like to help at a school?

Consider volunteering. You can apply online at [www.everettsd.org/volunteer](http://www.everettsd.org/volunteer). As an approved volunteer, you can volunteer anywhere in the school district that needs support.

Contact your neighborhood school to see what volunteer opportunities might work for you. You may be a classroom helper, day field trip chaperone or library helper in-the-making.



*Our mission is to inspire, educate and prepare each student to achieve to high standards, contribute to our community and thrive in a global society.*

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