

# OUR SCHOOLS



**NEWSLETTER**  
SPRING 2022

**NOW IS THE  
TIME TO  
ENROLL FOR  
KINDERGARTEN!**

IF YOUR CHILD WILL BE 5 BY  
AUGUST 31, ENROLL THEM NOW!  
SEE PAGE 3 FOR DETAILS.

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[www.everettsd.org](http://www.everettsd.org)

Welcome to the spring issue of Our Schools. It is hard to believe we are in the middle of spring and hitting the home stretch of the school year.

This has been a fantastic year for our students and staff and I am excited you will get to see a few highlights in this edition.

You will get to read about some creative STEAM activities our elementary students are working on as well as some highlights from our early learning Transitional Kindergarten program. You will learn about how we have been and will be serving refugee families moving to our district and how we plan on spending the remaining ESSER funding provided by the state to enhance educational opportunities for all students.

We have also included a brief annual report with statistics about our district. If you would like to see the learning happening in our schools every week, I invite you to follow me on Twitter as I go out in schools and share with you the great work I see occurring in classrooms.



**Dr. Ian B. Saltzman** @DrIanBSaltzman

I had a great breakfast talk with the student leaders of Cascade High School. Great to hear their perspective about their school and district. Outstanding leaders!



And to close, I would like to thank our community and voters for helping pass our two replacement levies in February. We appreciate your support and will be sharing the progress of approved projects starting in 2023.

Be safe and be well,

**Dr. Ian B. Saltzman**

# ANNUAL REPORT

## SIX PRIORITY STUDENT OUTCOMES

Ensure  
3rd grade  
literacy



Increase  
science  
achievement



Increase  
math  
achievement



Reduce gaps  
in achievement  
among student  
groups



Ensure students  
are prepared to  
succeed in college  
and career



Strengthen  
student wellness,  
engagement and  
safety



**20,344**  
**K-12 STUDENTS**



**90.2%**

**REGULAR  
ATTENDANCE**

**4.3%**

**HOMELESS  
STUDENT  
POPULATION**

**3.0%**

**DROPOUT  
RATE**



**43.8%** White

**21.2%** Hispanic/Latino  
of any race(s)

**18.8%** Asian

**9.4%** Two or More  
Races

**4.8%** Black/African  
American

**1.5%** Native Hawaiian/  
Other Pacific Islander

**0.5%** American Indian/  
Alaskan Native

## GRADUATION RATES



**93.9%**  
2021 FOUR-YEAR

**96.3%**  
2020 FIVE-YEAR

## SPECIAL PROGRAMS

Multilingual Learner – **16.2%**

(Free and reduced-priced meals)  
Low-Income – **42.1%**

Section 504 – **3.8%**

Students with disabilities who receive  
support through an IEP – **13.3%**

## ABOUT OUR TEACHERS

Number of Classroom Teachers – **1,187**

Average Years of Teacher Experience – **14.6**

Teachers with at Least a Master's Degree – **67.8%**

National Board Certified – **15.0%**

## STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

Male – **50.9%**

Female – **48.7%**

Gender X – **0.3%**

**Mission** – Everett Public Schools' mission is to inspire, educate and prepare each student to achieve high standards, contribute to our community, and thrive in a global society.

## 2020-2021 DISTRICT OPERATING SUMMARY



▼ EXPENDITURES	COST	PERCENT
Teaching & Learning Support	\$251,253,175	76.3%
Building Administration	\$20,488,149	6.2%
Maintenance & Operations	\$14,013,419	4.3%
District Support	\$17,568,027	5.3%
Transportation	\$7,016,237	2.1%
Utilities & Insurance	\$6,363,710	1.9%
Food & Nutrition Services	\$6,904,553	2.1%
Other Support	\$5,854,228	1.8%
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$329,461,498</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

▼ REVENUES & OTHER SOURCES	AMOUNT	PERCENT
State	\$251,400,929	75.9%
Local	\$48,354,197	14.6%
Federal	\$25,977,829	7.8%
Other Revenues & Sources	\$5,742,015	1.7%
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	<b>\$331,474,970</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Annual Average FTE (full-time equivalent) enrollment used in calculations

**TOTAL ACTUAL EXPENDITURES PER  
STUDENT FTE FOR 2020-21** **\$16,549**

## SUMMARY OF PARENT FEEDBACK

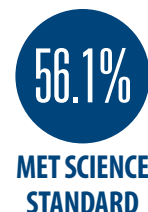
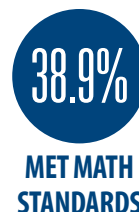
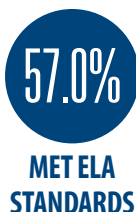


Everett Public Schools strives to include diverse voices, thoughts, suggestions and input in district decisions. We provide opportunities for families, community members, students and staff to express what works well and what might work better to create a positive social and academic climate in our schools to always improve two-way communication.

District-level engagements with families, as well as a summary of common themes from each engagement are listed on the district's website at [www.everettsd.org/Engagement](http://www.everettsd.org/Engagement).

## SUMMARY OF STUDENT SCORES ON ALL MANDATED TESTS

*Fall 2021 – Due to United States Department of Education assessment waivers for Spring 2020 and 2021, assessment data is not available for those two years.*



It is important to remember that students were tested this fall on last year's grade-level standards. In addition, the Smarter Balanced Assessments (SBA) were shortened, and the extended response and performance tasks were eliminated to provide more time for instruction and social-emotional learning. Because the test was modified, student scores cannot be compared to previous Smarter Balanced Assessment scores. The fall preliminary SBA scores are one data point. Schools consider them along with other assessment scores, including course unit assessments, diagnostic assessments, and other state assessments to evaluate student learning and plan for instruction.

## INVITATION TO THE COMMUNITY



At Everett Public Schools, one of our six strategic priorities in the district's strategic plan is community engagement. Families and community members are encouraged to participate in school activities and in educating students in school, at home and in the community. Thank you for the opportunity to partner with you and hope to see you in one of our buildings soon! For more information, visit [www.everettsd.org/Volunteer](http://www.everettsd.org/Volunteer).

**The district is also currently seeking members to serve on the Family Engagement Advisory Council (FEAC)** with a mission of having families work directly with district and school leadership, bringing the family voice to district and school-level decision-making. The term of membership is a minimum of two years. Members will serve from August 2022 to July 2024 with quarterly meetings.



If you are a parent, family member or guardian of a currently enrolled student in Everett Public Schools and are interested in serving on the FEAC, please apply on the districts' website at [www.everettsd.org/FEAC](http://www.everettsd.org/FEAC). The application will be under Quicklinks and will be accepted from May 16 to May 31.



# SCHOOL DISTRICT USE OF ESSER FUNDING

Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funds were authorized by the federal government to provide school funding to support sustained safe building reopening and operations while meeting the academic, social, emotional and mental health needs of students resulting from the COVID pandemic.

These relief dollars, totaling \$35.7 million for Everett Public Schools, were distributed in three phases.



## ESSER I

**Cares Act:** The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, signed into law on March 13, 2020, reimburses eligible expenses through September 30, 2021. Everett Public Schools received \$2.6 million which has been fully spent.

## ESSER II

**CRRSA Act:** The Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations (CRRSA) Act, signed into law on December 27, 2020, reimburses eligible expenses through September 30, 2022. Everett Public Schools allocated \$10.2 million.

## ESSER III

**ARP Act of 2021:** The American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act of 2021, signed into law on March 11, 2021, reimburses eligible expenses through September 30, 2023. Everett Public Schools allocated \$22.9 million. Expenditures are planned through September 30, 2023.

### PROJECTED ESSER III EXPENDITURES IN 2021-22



#### ▼ STUDENT SUPPORTS

Educational Technology	8.1%
Remote and Hybrid school-based supports	26.8%
Extended summer school & supplemental learning	6.2%
Social Emotional Learning (SEL) supports	10.5%
Enhanced learning opportunities and equitable access	23.0%

#### ▼ OPERATIONAL SUPPORTS

Health/safety response efforts	9.7%
Clean facilities/improve air quality	15.7%

- 2021-22 expenditures continue to increase investments in educational technology, enhanced and remote learning and social emotional learning needs (SEL)
- 74.6% of 2021-22 expenditure plan directly supports student SEL needs

### PROJECTED ESSER III EXPENDITURES IN 2022-23



#### ▼ STUDENT SUPPORTS

Remote and Hybrid school-based supports	15.8%
Extended summer school & supplemental learning	15.6%
Social Emotional Learning (SEL) supports	12.5%
Enhanced learning opportunities and equitable access	45.9%

#### ▼ OPERATIONAL SUPPORTS

Health/safety response efforts	10.2%
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- 89.9 % of ESSER III expenditure plan directly supports student social emotional learning (SEL) needs
- Enhanced learning opportunities and equitable access increased 22.9%
- Ongoing costs for enhanced cleaning of facilities, air quality, social workers and some nursing will be funded by basic ed in 2022-23

## NOW IS THE TIME TO ENROLL FOR KINDERGARTEN

If your child will be **5 by August 31**, enroll them now!



Online (using a computer or mobile device) or in person by downloading enrollment forms or picking them up at your home school.

Enrolling now will ensure invitations to your school kindergarten events and participation in Everett Ready, a transition into kindergarten program offered from Monday, August 22 to Friday, August 26, 2022 to all enrolled kindergarteners.

### For enrollment information:

- Application, [www.everettsd.org/KindergartenEnrollment](http://www.everettsd.org/KindergartenEnrollment)
- Find your home school, [www.everettsd.org/Transportation](http://www.everettsd.org/Transportation)
- For school transfer, [www.everettsd.org/SchoolTransfers](http://www.everettsd.org/SchoolTransfers)
- To contact your home school, [www.everettsd.org](http://www.everettsd.org) and select your school
- For Frequently Asked Questions, [www.everettsd.org/Kindergarten](http://www.everettsd.org/Kindergarten)

**"We are looking forward to meeting you and your student!"**

# FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM EXPANDED THROUGH STATE GRANT

**H**ave you ever tried a watermelon radish? Elementary students in Everett Public Schools have! A grant from the Washington State Department of Agriculture is helping Everett Public Schools Food and Nutrition program procure a wide variety of Washington-grown foods from diverse farmers and food producers across the state. These “Farm to School Purchasing Grants” are administered in partnership with the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI).

The grant provides funding for district purchases of whole and minimally processed fruits, vegetables, herbs, meat, seafood, legumes and grains that are 100 percent grown, raised or caught in Washington state.

What does that mean for our students? In the last few months, they have tried Cosmic Crisp apples from Yakima, cremini mushrooms from Olympia, Hubbard squash from Whidbey Island and watermelon and daikon radishes grown in the Skagit Valley. This spring the plan is to procure local asparagus, spring peas, cherries, fennel, apricots and much more.

Exposing students to a diverse selection of food makes it more likely they will give them a try – studies show it takes 8-10 exposures to new foods to change a child’s preference. “There are so many benefits to exposing children to a variety of fruits and vegetables early in life and this generation will hopefully grow up knowing the cornucopia of fresh foods that exist around them,” explains Adam Pazder, director of food and nutrition services. He adds, “Through this program, we are attempting to foster stronger connections between food, community, health and food enjoyment. When we begin early, we can give children a lifetime of positive food associations.”

To learn more farm to school initiatives in our district, please visit [www.everettsd.org/Food-Nutrition](http://www.everettsd.org/Food-Nutrition).



Watermelon radish



## TRANSITIONAL KINDERGARTEN SETS STUDENTS UP FOR SUCCESS

**T**his spring, 118 young learners can be found in six classrooms across the district participating in Transitional Kindergarten. Transitional Kindergarten is a full-time, 20-week spring semester learning experience for children who haven’t had access to preschool and who will attend kindergarten in the fall. The program focuses on foundational academic, social and self-help skills to jumpstart qualifying students toward success in school.

Originally started in January 2020, this is the first year Transitional Kindergarten is onsite and in-person for the duration of the program due to COVID restrictions in previous years. This is also the first year the district is piloting an inclusive model that includes students with Individualized Education Plans (IEP’s) in the classroom.

In Transitional Kindergarten students develop kindergarten readiness skills in reading, writing, math and science and they learn the routines of schools—lunch, recess and specialists. “They learn social-emotional skills, too—how to make friends, use words to express their needs and wants, and how to be part of a group. In September, they arrive at school confident and ready for success,” explains Director of P-5 Instruction and Early Learning Anne Arnold.

Claire Ferrell, Transitional Kindergarten teacher at Monroe Elementary says her students have shown tremendous growth since starting the program in January, “especially in their fine motor, gross motor, phonic, mathematic and social skills.” When they begin kindergarten this fall, Ferrell explains students “will be familiar with how a typical school day is set up and know how to be a student within a school community.”

To learn more about Transitional Kindergarten or Early Learning in Everett Public Schools, please visit <https://www.everettsd.org/EarlyLearning>.





# CONNECTING TECHNOLOGY TO ART WITH STOP MOTION ANIMATION

Penny Creek Elementary has a dedicated team of specialists who work collaboratively to ensure their students feel successful by making learning accessible, doable and enjoyable, but also challenging. Students are often reminded the future is in their classroom right now.

Students are often reminded the future  
is in their classroom right now.

The STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math) specialist, Jeanne Medalia, illustrated this with a recent project on stop motion animation which taught the important life skill of perseverance to all 2-5 graders. The project not only garnered 100 percent engagement but built excitement for future careers, determination, collaboration and motivation.

Knowing students are consumers of technology, she gave them a glimpse of what it takes to create content through a stop motion animation project. She started

the lesson on volcanos by showing students examples of stop motion videos and what is possible with animation, planting the seed of what possible popular careers they may aspire to.

First, students learned about volcanos and then used technology and art in a culminating activity that not only solidified the learning but got them so excited that they were teaching each other, problem solving on their own, working as a group and practicing inclusion skills.



Each student used a free online animation tool, ABCya, to create an animation of a volcano erupting in one 40-minute class period. To do this, students would draw their image, copy, make a slight change, copy, etc. until each had their own volcanic eruption movie. Students who wanted their projects shown in class got to have them play on the new flat panels.

The main theme behind comments from students has been variations of, "I can't believe how hard it is and how much work it takes to create just a short video! I can't believe I did it!" Students have a much better appreciation of the perseverance and planning it takes to create this kind of media. Medalia is excited to see how students will use this to help show their learning, perhaps even on their next research topic. It can be a powerful way to illustrate concepts and ideas.

The specialist team is very proud of their Penny Creek students. They are doing the work and learning. And the younger siblings of the students who participated in this incredible project cannot wait for their turn in future years.

## THANK YOU VOTERS!

Thank you to our voters for approving the 2022 Replacement Capital Levy and Replacement Educational Programs and Operations (EP&O) Levy.



# EVERETT PUBLIC SCHOOLS WELCOMES REFUGEES WITH OPEN ARMS AND RESOURCES

Everett Public Schools, along with the support of community partners, are working to welcome families and their school-aged children seeking refuge from Afghanistan and Ukraine.

Van Dinh-Kuno, executive director of the Refugee and Immigrant Services Northwest (RISNW) based in Everett, is an invaluable partner and point of contact for Everett Public Schools' Chris Fulford, director of categorical programs. For more than 40 years, RISNW has helped newly arrived refugees with a mission of "empowering refugees, immigrants and their families to become self-sufficient and healthy, contributing members of society." A big part of meeting their mission is to assist families in navigating local school systems, which includes providing cross cultural training to better support school success for diverse ethnic, language and cultural groups. Recently, a big focus has been on families arriving in Snohomish County from Afghanistan and Ukraine.



Van Dinh-Kuno

*"Empowering refugees, immigrants and their families to become self-sufficient and healthy, contributing members of society."*

When Dinh-Kuno called this spring with news that 17 Afghan students needed to be registered for school, our team immediately responded and traveled to a local hotel where the families were staying while they await permanent residence. Students were visibly excited at the prospect of getting back to school, with two girls who speak English giving a thumbs up and saying, "we're ready!" and another boy's face lighting up and running down the hall to the room where middle school students were being enrolled.

These students qualify for services under the federal McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act and will be able to attend the same school this year even if their permanent housing takes them to a new neighborhood. Providing this consistency is important and getting back into the

classroom allows for students to get back into a routine and some normalcy after what they have gone through to get here.

Attending school is also a distraction from seeing what's on the news in their homeland. They can focus on the future and building a new life here.

Everett Public Schools has established programs supporting multilingual learners, cultural proficiency and inclusion and social-emotional learning, which all contribute to a successful transition. The district is also able to provide backpacks and school supplies and families are automatically referred to the Family Resource Center.

District staff stay connected with the new families by visiting the county's welcome center, where they meet every Friday to have access to interpreters and resources they need not only to settle in the community (clothing, diapers, appliances, electronics, bikes, etc.) but also a place to connect with community resources, health care, housing and other supports. It is important to build trust with these families because they are trusting the district with their kids.

In a recent trip to the welcome center, Dinh-Kuno called over a man eager to work for the district. With much experience working in schools as he studied to become a doctor in Afghanistan, he hopes to have the opportunity to work for Everett Public Schools. Making this connection is mutually beneficial as our district is stronger when our staff reflects the student body.

Helping Afghan refugees has served as a template for supporting Ukrainian families who have already begun to arrive. The first four students were registered in early April with many more expected in the next six months. Everett Public Schools will be ready to welcome more students and continue to celebrate the diversity they bring to our school communities. The welcome center has plans to open one day a week to serve Ukrainian families so they can also get the resources they need to start establishing themselves in the fabric of our community.







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**Why are you receiving this newsletter?** Many residents within the school district do not have school-age children in Everett Public Schools. The purpose of Our Schools, therefore, is to let those members of the community know about the programs and activities taking place in their Everett Public Schools. This mailing publication is not mailed using an address list. Instead, to greatly reduce the cost of postage, we use a bulk mailing process that has it delivered to every residential customer on each letter carrier's route.

## APPLY NOW FOR FREE ECEAP PRESCHOOL

Early Childhood Education & Assistance Program (ECEAP) is a FREE preschool program serving 3- and 4-year-old students and located at six elementary schools across Everett Public Schools.

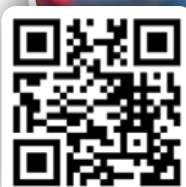
### ECEAP supports student learning and the whole family through these services:

- Preschool education
- Family services
- Health & nutrition services

**Apply now – space is limited!** Visit [www.everettsd.org/ECEAP](http://www.everettsd.org/ECEAP) to submit an "inquiry form." Once received, a staff member will contact you with questions or to complete your child's application.

For information on additional community locations, visit the website or call 425-385-4628.

*ECEAP program is funded in partnership with Snohomish County Human Services and Washington State Department of Children, Youth and Families.*



## PROVIDING TRANSPORTATION OUTSIDE OF A HALF MILE NEXT YEAR

Everett Public Schools is excited to announce starting in fall 2022, students who live more than half mile from school can ride a bus. The plan adds about 16 additional bus routes for kindergarten through 12th grade students to reduce their walking distance to school or a bus stop. Currently, students who live more than one mile radius from school can ride the school bus.

This change will have benefits beyond transporting more students to school. We anticipate improved student safety and better attendance. Also, more students will arrive early enough to eat breakfast at school if they wish. While bus stops will be a one mile walking distance from school, students will now have the choice to walk to the nearest stop. For example, a student that lives  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile from the school can choose to walk to school or walk  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile away from the school to a bus stop.

**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:** Kevin Allen, 425-385-4100, [KAllen@everettsd.org](mailto:KAllen@everettsd.org), PO Box 2098, Everett WA 98213

**Section 504 Coordinator:** Dave Peters, 425-385-4063, [DPeters@everettsd.org](mailto:DPeters@everettsd.org), PO Box 2098, Everett WA 98213

**ADA Coordinator:** Randi Seaberg, 425-385-4104, [RSeaberg@everettsd.org](mailto:RSeaberg@everettsd.org), PO Box 2098, Everett WA 98213

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- Caroline Mason
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## SUPERINTENDENT

- Dr. Ian B. Saltzman

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

