

OUR SCHOOLS



NEWSLETTER
WINTER 2022



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CHAMPION AWARD

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It is hard to believe we are halfway through the school year. I am excited to see what possibilities and opportunities 2022 has in store for our students!

One opportunity I am focused on for our entire district is a particularly significant day: February 8, which is a special election day. Like many other local school districts, Everett Public Schools has two important propositions on the ballot: a replacement capital levy and a replacement educational programs and operations (EP&O) levy.

Both levies provide vital funding for our schools. You can read more about them 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.

I hope you take the time to vote in the February election. Ballots are mailed on January 20, so you may have already received them.

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

Dr. Ian B. Saltzman



A stylized, handwritten signature in white ink that reads "Ian B. Saltzman".

DISTRICT-WIDE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT ADVANCES EQUITY WORK

On October 15, Everett Public Schools staff participated in a district-wide Learning Improvement Day (LID) focused on equity and inclusion. Planned and facilitated by the district's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Department, the purpose of this day of professional development was to continue our efforts improving cultural competency, inclusion, equity and diversity in our work throughout the district.

"This will be a day for collaboration, learning more about each other, respecting each other's perspectives, and growing our collective understanding of how to serve our students and our families well," explained Superintendent Saltzman as he welcomed staff to LID.

"We know through our equity efforts that significant progress will be made in creating belonging and inclusion and closing opportunity gaps."

Schools and departments gathered in teams and watched a selection of video vignettes featuring Bill de la Cruz on using self-awareness, critical self-reflection and relational leadership to create belonging and inclusive systems. De la Cruz, a professional anti-bias speaker and trainer, has been working with our district to improve equity and build culturally responsible practices.

Next, participants heard from students, staff and community partners on their experiences in our schools and our district. They bravely shared times when they felt marginalized, stereotyped or discriminated against, and also times when they felt supported and celebrated. Elevating the voices of our stakeholders is a way to identify our biases and inform our next steps to advance a greater sense of belonging and inclusion in our system.

"This year we are moving from awareness to action, and we are all accountable for our student priority outcomes," explained Joi Odom Grant, director of diversity, equity and inclusion. "We know through our equity efforts that significant progress will be made in creating belonging and inclusion and closing opportunity gaps."

FLAT PANELS CREATE INTERACTIVE LEARNING SPACES FOR ELEMENTARY STUDENTS

Thanks to the passage of the 2016 capital technology levy, every elementary school classroom in Everett Public Schools will receive an interactive flat panel to replace classroom projectors by the middle of March. The rollout began in November and has been met with excitement from teachers and students alike.

Ongoing teacher trainings have been paired with the implementation at individual schools, which are planned in partnership with the principals to customize the school and teacher specific needs. Current technology (overhead projectors and document viewers) will remain in the classrooms through the end of the school year to allow transition time for teachers to get comfortable using the new technology.

Flat panels engage students with learning in a new, collaborative way. Not only do they allow for flexibility in teaching due to their mobility in the classroom itself, but built-in apps allow teachers to send their computer's screen and audio to the panel wirelessly for presenting to their class. The panels also include functionality that enables students to send their Chromebook screens to the panel or see the panel's screen on their Chromebook to interact with content.

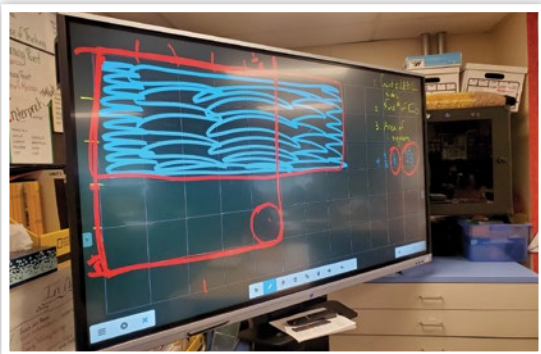
This technology allows teachers to reimagine the traditional classroom with the teacher up front to facilitate collaborative learning. Annie Albee, a second-grade teacher at Jackson Elementary says, "The interactive panel is fun and easy to use! The picture is crystal clear, the students love it, and it makes learning even more interactive."

Ms. Albee's students have a lot of good things to say about it too:

- *"I like that you can actually see it better and you can change the height."*
- *"You can do a bunch of things on it. It is really cool! You can read on it!"*
- *"You can do all kinds of stuff on it and you can even connect your computer to it so you can see your screen."*
- *"You don't need to turn off the lights for it."*
- *"It's touchscreen and you can play games on it."*
- *"You can turn on the spotlight."*
- *"You can draw on it!"*
- *"It helps us learn."*
- *"It can move up and down."*
- *"I like the math games on it!"*
- *"It is very good at doing everything and you can even write on it!"*
- *"I like that you can change how light or dark it is."*
- *"It really, really helps with writing and sometimes math and reading for phonics songs. It really helps a lot!"*

"Technology continues to advance at a fast pace and being able to stay current with the latest available tools to support teachers to transform the learning environment was an important component of the 2016 capital technology levy," stated Brian Beckley, chief information officer. "We are so lucky to live in a community that shares this vision and supports our kids."

As part of the replacement capital levy on the February 8, 2022 ballot, technology funding would expand the flat panels program into all middle and high school classrooms in the district.



REPLACEMENT LEVIES



Everett Public Schools has two replacement levies on the February 8, 2022 ballot. Our local levy dollars, when approved by voters, provide funds that stay in our district and help our students.

Replacing both expiring levies within a stable tax rate, that also addressed the educational needs of all our students, was a primary goal in planning the renewal levies for the February 8 election.

Having good schools and facilities has a positive effect on our neighborhoods. Better schools help build a stronger community, which will improve our quality of life, keep crime down and help increase the values of our homes.

All students should be given the same opportunities regardless of their abilities, backgrounds or family income. This funding will ensure all students in Everett Public Schools have the same opportunities to learn, grow and succeed.

HOW DO EP&O LEVY FUNDS BENEFIT STUDENTS?

Local Educational Programs and Operations (EP&O) levy funding allows us to provide the quality education our community expects for our children, which goes beyond the minimum funded by the state. This covers basic operating expenses and includes:

- Special education services (state funds \$35 million, costs are an extra \$10 million)
- Nurses (state funds 3 nurses, district has 12 nurses so district must pay for the additional 9 nurses)
- Counselors (state pays \$4.3 million, actual costs are additional \$3.6 million)
- Student transportation
- Safety and security (state pays \$400,000, actual costs are additional \$4.4 million)
- Additional program offerings such as summer school, early learning, elementary dual language, choice programs, orchestra, family partnerships, and Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI)
- Costs over state funding for full time, part-time and substitute staff
- Extra-curricular clubs, sports, and activities

HOW DO CAPITAL LEVY FUNDS BENEFIT STUDENTS?

The replacement capital levy provides funding to acquire, improve or maintain school facilities in the following categories:

- Technology
- Increased safety and security
- Equal access, same experience
- Maintenance and mandatory upgrades

TECHNOLOGY

Our students benefit from ongoing integration of technology into their learning.

- To maintain the 1:1 device program, all devices will stay updated, supported and properly maintained
- The district's technology infrastructure will stay upgraded and safe, and digital licenses renewed
- Building on what we learned about remote learning during COVID, technology will stay updated for innovative teaching and new requirements for Career Pathways

Did you know running a school district creates the same needs for technology and business systems that a corporation with a budget of approximately \$500 million would need? In fact, those business systems are critical since the district must report to the state, the federal government, and to our community members how district dollars are spent.

INCREASED SAFETY AND SECURITY

Our students will learn in buildings that are made to be safer and more secure.

- Buildings will restrict unauthorized access
- Sensors will be replaced to provide consistent functioning

Did you know our facilities accommodate about 20,000 students, 2,400 staff and hundreds of visitors every school day, and our safety/security systems must be upgraded and maintained to keep them safe and secure?

EQUAL ACCESS, SAME EXPERIENCE

Every student in our district will have the same opportunity to learn in well-functioning, safe and modern spaces.

- Buildings will be replaced or upgraded to meet ADA and seismic requirements, and be able to support current programming needs

HISTORICAL AND PREDICTED RATES PER \$1,000 ASSESSED VALUE (AV)

| Calendar Year | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | 2026 |
|----------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| EP&O Levy | \$3.31 | \$3.11 | \$3.07 | \$2.62 | \$1.50 | \$1.92 | \$1.97 | \$1.93 | \$2.20 | \$2.15 | \$2.14 | \$2.14 |

- High school classrooms will hold equipment and lab space to accommodate new science standards and STEM career-connected pathways
- Cafeterias will be reconfigured and have additional space to seat and serve students efficiently

Did you know our high schools do not have the appropriate spaces and equipment to teach the new science standards, or STEM pathways? Or that cafeterias are so crowded students may skip lunch because they do not have a place to sit? Studies have shown having a well-maintained school can have a positive impact on a student's academic success, and all our students deserve that.

MAINTENANCE AND MANDATORY UPGRADES

Our facilities are valuable community assets and will be maintained to increase their life expectancy and comply with state mandated upgrades.

- Roofing, flooring and HVAC systems must be upgraded or replaced at all schools when they wear out to provide safe and healthy environments for our students
- New playground equipment and bleachers will improve safety and student experience
- The state passed a law in 2019 requiring specific commercial buildings to comply with new energy use targets which will require major work at five of our schools

Did you know school roofs should be replaced every 20-30 years, and they cost around \$2 million per roof to replace, depending on the size of the building? And to comply with the new Clean Buildings Act, our district will need to spend approximately \$30 million in upgrades at six different sites?

REMEMBER TO VOTE - REGISTER TO VOTE

Voter Registration deadlines



IN PERSON

Election Day



BY MAIL

Received 8 days before Election Day



ONLINE

8 days before Election Day

Individuals may register to vote in their county auditor's office, the division of elections if in a separate city from the county auditor's office, a voting center, or other location designated by the county auditor in his or her county of residence no later than 8 p.m. on the day of the primary, special election or general election. The registration process and requirements for registering on Election Day are the same as for filling out a paper registration form or the online form.



WHAT IS THE COMMUNITY INVESTMENT FOR THE REPLACEMENT CAPITAL LEVY?

The capital levy is a 6-year renewal tax, replacing the current capital levy voters approved in 2016. Everett Public Schools voters have supported capital levies 3 times since 1992.

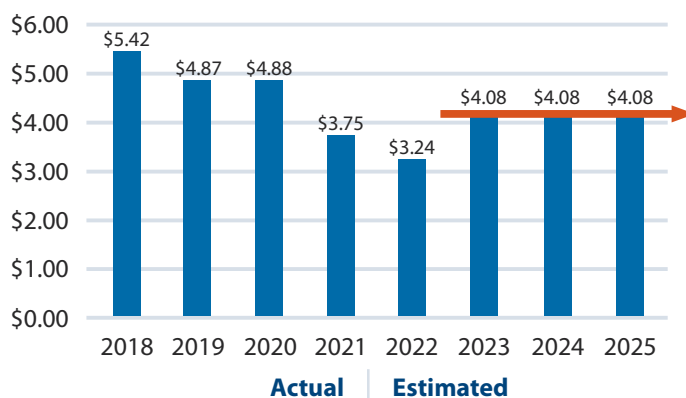
The total 6-year cost for the replacement capital levy is \$325.5 million.

| | | | |
|--|---|---|---|
| <p>TECHNOLOGY UPGRADES \$96 million</p> | <p>INCREASED SAFETY & SECURITY \$2 million</p> | <p>EQUAL ACCESS, SAME EXPERIENCE \$171.5 million</p> | <p>MAINTENANCE & MANDATORY UPGRADES \$54 million</p> |
|--|---|---|---|

The passing of both the replacement capital and EP&O levies will increase your Everett Public Schools-related property tax rates by an estimated \$0.84 per \$1,000 AV when compared to 2022, and an estimated \$0.33 when compared to 2021. However, the new tax rates will still be substantially lower than rates paid by district property owners prior to 2021.

| Tax Year | Proposed EP&O Levy | Proposed Capital Levy | Debt from Prior Capital Bonds | Combined Tax Rate |
|----------|------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------|
| 2023 | \$2.20 | \$1.18 | \$0.70 | \$4.08 |
| 2024 | \$2.15 | \$1.75 | \$0.18 | \$4.08 |
| 2025 | \$2.14 | \$1.75 | \$0.19 | \$4.08 |
| 2026 | \$2.14 | \$1.73 | \$0.21 | \$4.08 |
| 2027 | \$2.14 (future EP&O levy) | \$1.76 | \$0.18 | \$4.08 |

Tax Rate Over Time



For more information visit everettsd.org/2022levies. If you have questions about either levy, email communications@everettsd.org.

STUDENTS THRIVE THROUGH PERSEVERANCE AND PROBLEM-SOLVING AT STEAM ACADEMY

According to the U.S. Department of Education, "In an ever changing, increasingly complex world, it's more important than ever that our nation's youth are prepared to bring knowledge and skills to solve problems, make sense of information and know how to gather and evaluate evidence to make decisions."

Students at Madison and Woodside elementary schools are learning those valuable skills through the district's STEAM Academy, launched this fall as a two-year pilot program at both schools.

But what is STEAM? The acronym stands for Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math. With STEAM learning, students apply concepts to solve real-world problems through hands-on learning activities and creative design.

Every K-5 student at Woodside and Madison attends STEAM class once a week. Lessons are geared to each grade level but are similar in that they learn basic skills then build on that knowledge to create, invent or complete a project.

As an example, Woodside STEAM Specialist Lindsey Lippert recently challenged her third graders to design a simple machine to save a tiger who had fallen into a

deep hole at the zoo! Leading up to this challenge, students learned about different types of simple machines through discussion, books and videos.

The idea is for students to apply their learning to real-world scenarios, helping to develop creativity, problem-solving and critical thinking skills. "Students love feeling like scientists, engineers, artists, computer scientists and mathematicians," explained Lippert. "They love exploring and experimenting and trying new things, knowing that failure is a success and helps us learn how to change things in the future."

"Students...love exploring and experimenting and trying new things, knowing that failure is a success and helps us learn how to change things in the future."

Lippert's fourth grade students recently learned simple coding. Learning about coding builds problem solving and perseverance and teaches students how digital technologies work while getting a glimpse of 21st century skills that are so valuable to jobs of the future. Lippert says what she loves most about STEAM is that "creativity is valued, and you get to see students who might not feel successful in traditional learning models really shine."

"With students receiving STEAM Specialist class once a week we have seen growth in students' persistence and creativity in solving engineering problems and resilience when faced with design failures or challenges," shared Dr. Betty Cobbs, principal. She added, "students love coming to STEAM class and parents have shared that students are motivated to continue building and creating in STEAM learning at home."



EVERETT PUBLIC SCHOOLS FOUNDATION USES AVAILABLE FUNDING TO MEET EMERGING NEEDS

The Everett Public Schools Foundation has been a vital partner to our schools and the community since 1985, providing funding that would otherwise not be available for innovative and critical programs that support student success. Since its inception, the Foundation has contributed over \$5.7 million in program support. Support falls under four pillars - Early Learning, Innovation and Excellence, High School and Beyond and Basic Student Needs.

With the COVID pandemic, there has been an increased need to fund student basic needs. Fortunately, the state covered the cost of summer school tuition this past summer, which freed up funding to shift to meet emerging needs.



EVERETT PUBLIC SCHOOLS
FOUNDATION

For example, the Foundation was able to offer a \$5,000 grant to district social workers to help in critical situations and

contributed \$1,000 to offer support to the 120 unaccompanied homeless youth with a gift card drive over the holidays.

Light was also shed on another emerging need when many of the 2021 classroom grant applications were requests for library books that reflect the diversity in the district's student population. The Foundation was able to fund these program needs with \$7,000 outside of the allocated budget for the program. The board of directors also approved an additional \$17,000 in funding to replace aging books, books that were lost during COVID and purchase even more books better representing our students.

Being able to shift these funds is just the tip of the iceberg in terms of the need identified for books.

The special ask at the 2022 annual benefit will focus on funding for school libraries and will be held virtually on Wednesday, March 2 from 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. If interested, scan the QR code to register.

We appreciate the support the Foundation provides to our schools, teachers and students. Their work on behalf of the district has been consistent and generous through the years.

*Scan to register
for EPSF's 2022
annual benefit*



EVERETT PUBLIC SCHOOLS HONORED WITH 2020 HEALTH CHAMPION AWARD

We were honored to be recognized by the Snohomish Health District as a Preparedness Champion for 2020. The health district annually recognizes exemplary people, programs and policies

that promote healthy behaviors in Snohomish County and acknowledged our partnership with them starting with having the first adolescent case of COVID in the nation, to providing locations for mass testing sites and partnering with contact tracing, vaccination promotion, and ongoing support of public health. Our staff continues to work tirelessly for the health and safety of our students, staff and community.



SCHOOL CLOSURE AND DELAY RESOURCES

- **FlashAlert.net:** You can subscribe to receive notices at the same time those notices are sent to media outlets, or you can bookmark this site to check for a listing of regional school emergency schedule information.
- **Media news reports:**
(Media get information from FlashAlert)
- **Everett Public Schools website:** www.everettsd.org
- **Mass communication system:** messages to school families typically beginning at 5:45 a.m.
- **Everett Public Schools social media:** Facebook, Instagram and Twitter pages.

"No announcement" means schools have normal schedules.
More resources are available at www.everettsd.org/safety.



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HAVE A SAFETY CONCERN RELATED TO SCHOOLS? REPORT IT!

You can **call**, **text** or **email** your concern.

If there is reason for concern about safety on a designated walkway to school, call 9-1-1 immediately for authorized, quick help. We have strong partnerships with local law enforcement who share our interest in safe schools and neighborhoods.

Student safety is a priority for all of us. Working together, we can help make our neighborhoods and schools nurturing places for students to safely learn and grow.

3 easy ways:



Call or text
855-637-2095



Email
1350@alert1.us



Web
<http://everett-wa.safeschoolsalert.com>

EVERETT PUBLIC SCHOOLS IS ACTIVE ON SOCIAL MEDIA!

We invite all Everett Public Schools families, friends and community members to follow our social media sites including Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube.

On our main district Facebook, Twitter and Instagram pages, you will find emergency district communications, photos, videos, event postings and content highlighting students, faculty and school accomplishments.

Visit our social media directory at www.everettsd.org/socialmediadirectory to follow along with school pages, district pages, teachers, clubs, student groups and more. Stay connected with us to learn the latest news. We can't wait to see you there!

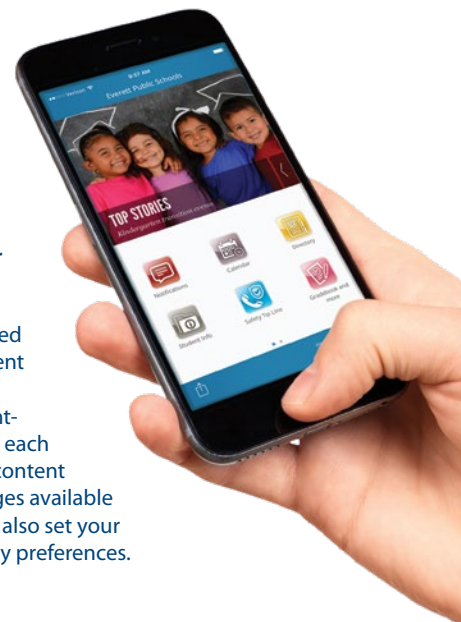
HAVE YOU DOWNLOADED OUR MOBILE APP?

News and information about our schools are as close as your smartphone. Download and log in to the district app to access your student's info quickly and easily. See top stories, Parent University, Canvas, books checked out from the library, grades, staff directory, school websites, calendars and more.

Available for Apple and Android devices and can be downloaded in 3 easy steps:

- On your smartphone, go to the iTunes App Store® or Google Play®
- Search Everett Public Schools
- Select our app for free download

Once you've downloaded the app, log in to "student info" with your LMS password to see student-specific information for each of your children. Read content in one of many languages available in the settings. You can also set your communication delivery preferences.



Why am I getting this newsletter? This newsletter is intended to reach all residents in our district including households without school-age children. We use bulk mailing rather than individually addressing each newsletter because it is the least expensive way to distribute this newsletter.

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, PO Box 2098, Everett WA 98213

Section 504 Coordinator: Dave Peters, 425-385-4063, DPeters@everettsd.org, PO Box 2098, Everett WA 98213

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

SUPERINTENDENT

- Dr. Ian B. Saltzman

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

