

ARLINGTON

Public Schools

*Educating all students, preparing & inspiring
them to achieve their full potential*

NEWS RELEASE

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ARLINGTON (November 11, 2015) – On Monday, November 9, the Arlington Public Schools Board of Directors passed a resolution to place the *Renewal of Expiring Educational Programs and Operations Levy* on the February 9, 2016 ballot. State law requires school districts to periodically ask voters to consider renewal of the local levy. The Arlington district relies on local levy funds to support approximately 24% of its educational programs.

Educational programs covered by levy funds include: Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) project-based project learning; Career and Technical Education classes; World Languages; Social Studies/History; English/Language Arts; Health/Fitness; and Fine and Performing Arts. The district has also added new programs to prepare students for their future. Post Middle School is piloting a STEM program for the middle school level and Arlington High School has added Manufacturing and Construction Geometry to prepare graduates for work and college.

Levy-supported Athletic programs and extracurricular activities develop well-rounded citizens by providing opportunities for them to hone their leadership, teamwork and collaboration skills. The School Resource Officer, serving all nine of our schools, and emergency preparedness are covered by local levy funds as well. Providing a safe environment for our students and staff is vital to our school community.

The current levy, approved by voters on February 2012, will expire at the end of 2016. The renewal levy is expected to be at a lower rate than the expiring levy. The current 2015 levy rate is \$3.60 and the estimated rate for the renewal levy is \$3.56 per \$1,000 of assessed home value. This measure will be a four-year educational programs and operations levy that would be collected in 2017 through 2020. Districts are allowed to collect only the amount approved by the voters.

Arlington Public Schools has received recognition at both the State and National levels for its effective and efficient financial practices. This affirms meeting the District's Strategic Plan goal of being good stewards of the resources provided by local and state taxes.

Superintendent Dr. Kristine McDuffy and district administrators are scheduled to conduct levy presentations for a variety of community groups. In addition, the district is hosting two meetings for the public in the Lincoln Room at the district administration building on Thursday, January 7 at 4:00 p.m. and Wednesday, January 20 at 7:00 a.m.

The community is welcome to visit the district website at www.asd.wednet.edu for more information about the *Renewal of Expiring Education Programs and Operations Levy*. Contact Andrea Conley, Public Information Coordinator, at 360.618.6217 with additional questions.