

## NEWS RELEASE

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**Arlington (September 25, 2014)** – Arlington Public Schools will be bringing a one-time Transportation Vehicle Fund Levy before the voters in the November 4, 2014 election. This is a two-year levy with the assessed value of \$.49 per \$1,000 to provide \$1,500,000 in 2015 and another \$1,500,000 in 2016. These funds will be used to purchase 26 new school buses. Arlington currently has the oldest operating fleet in Snohomish County with the oldest bus being 28 years old. Without additional funding, 71% of the current fleet will be fully depreciated in ten years.

New school buses have a safer seating design, larger windshields for better visibility, additional emergency exits, strengthened body construction and better traction control, providing a safer ride for students.

As the fleet has aged, it has become increasingly difficult to obtain replacement parts for the older buses and the cost of maintenance has grown. Newer buses are more fuel-efficient and have substantially reduced emissions. They are much more efficient to operate.

As the Arlington fleet has aged, the State's payments into the district's Transportation Vehicle Fund have declined, reducing the funds available to replace the older buses. Transportation levies are the means that school districts use to replace aging fleets without taking money out of the classroom. Because Washington State matches funds for new buses for the first 12 years of depreciation, the Transportation Vehicle Fund Levy will allow the Arlington district to create a self-sustaining cycle for many years to come.

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