

## School board approves running levies and bond in February election

The Arlington Public Schools Board of Directors at their Oct. 28 meeting approved running an Educational Programs and Operations (EP&O) Levy, a Capital Levy for safety and security improvements and classroom additions at Arlington High School, and a bond to replace Post Middle School. Community members will vote on the levies and bond during the Feb. 11, 2020 election.

Estimated EP&O Levy Rate/\$1,000

Collection Year	Assessed Value	Levy Amount
2021	\$1.70	\$8,950,000
2022	\$1.70	\$9,200,000
2023	\$1.70	\$9,500,000
2024	\$1.70	\$9,750,000

**The EP&O Levy** is a renewal of the existing four-year EP&O Levy, which expires at the end of 2020. The EP&O Levy pays for staffing, educational programs and operations expenses not funded by the state. These include instructional services and support, facility maintenance, technology, special education and extracurricular activities, and other educational programs and operations expenses.

**The Capital Levy** pays for safety, security and building improvements. All schools would receive improved classroom doors locks and other security upgrades. Additional classrooms and a Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) workshop would be constructed at Arlington High School. Other improvements include fire sprinklers, heating, ventilation, air conditioning, and pedestrian safety at identified schools.

**The Post Middle School Bond** provides for replacement of the deteriorating, existing Post Middle School. The new

school would correct the safety and security concerns of the existing Post Middle School. The new school would be earthquake resistant, have interior hallways for security, have larger classrooms to support STEM education, and be protected from fire with a fire sprinkler system. The cost of the bond is \$71.5 million.

"The board is charged with providing the best possible education for Arlington students," said School Board President, Kay Duskin. "This is why the board was unanimous in its decision to send the EP&O Levy, Capital Levy, and Post Middle School Bond to voters. We believe these projects are critical to ensuring students can learn and succeed in a safe and comfortable learning environment."



**"The board is charged with providing the best possible education for Arlington students."**

*- Kay Duskin  
President, APS Board of Directors*

Estimated Capital Levy Rate/\$1,000

Collection Year	Assessed Value	Levy Amount
2021	\$1.15	\$6,019,553
2022	\$1.14	\$6,149,553
2023	\$1.13	\$6,281,554
2024	\$1.15	\$6,606,008

## Community members can receive School Messenger notifications during emergencies

Would you like to be alerted of school-related emergencies that might impact the community? During emergencies and other incidents, Arlington Public Schools sends notifications like phone calls, emails and text messages to our families. If an emergency has the potential to impact the community, these notifications are expanded to include community members.

If you don't have a child in Arlington Public Schools and would like to receive these free notifications, please visit School Messenger at the following website address: <https://asp.schoolmessenger.com/arlingtonsd16/subscriber/>

You can specify whether you want to receive phone calls, emails, text messages or all three. You will need to log in periodically to keep your account active.



## Receive school closure information through FlashAlert

Arlington Public Schools uses FlashAlert Newswire to communicate school closure information due to bad weather, hazardous road conditions or other emergencies to local media sources. Parents, students, staff and community members can register up to three email addresses and/or cell phone numbers in a single account and receive information at the same time as the news media. A free iPhone/Android app, FlashAlert Messenger, is also available and allows families and the public to receive emergency messages. As a subscriber, you can also view all local emergency items and news releases on [FlashAlertNewsire.net](http://FlashAlertNewsire.net).

Sign up today at <https://www.flashalert.net/signup.html>

# Arlington Kiwanis dictionary donation helps strengthen student reading

The Arlington Kiwanis Club – in conjunction with the non-profit “The Dictionary Project” and Friends of the Arlington Library – donated dictionaries to third graders in Arlington, Darrington and Lakewood School Districts in October.

“Our third graders love receiving these dictionaries and they’re really useful for our reading,” said Eagle Creek Elementary Third Grade Teacher, Amy Jo Irwin. “In third grade, we’re using the Collect, Interpret, Apply (CIA) Approach to reading. They use the dictionaries daily to look up words. By the end of third grade, they’re well used!”

The third graders look forward to receiving these dictionaries since their older siblings also received dictionaries when they were in third grade. Arlington Kiwanis donated between 600-700 dictionaries to third graders in the three districts. Arlington Kiwanis has been donating dictionaries to local students for 18 years.



*Eagle Creek Elementary third graders wait to receive dictionaries from members of Arlington Kiwanis. This is the 18th year the service group has donated dictionaries to third graders.*

“The dictionaries are used specifically for student CIA vocabulary handbooks, as well as to support their own writing throughout the year,” said Eagle Creek Elementary Assistant Principal, Ryan Barci. “The CIA approach is heavy into novel reading and the dictionaries help with that reading. We really appreciate this donation from Arlington Kiwanis.”

# Firefighters teach life-saving skills to Arlington elementary students

Arlington Firefighters visited elementary schools during October to teach young students what to do in case of a fire. Oct. 6-12 was Fire Prevention Week and it was a good time to remind students and families about fire safety.

“The students’ homework was to go home and talk with their families about what they can do to prevent fires and how to react if there’s a fire in their home,” said Arlington Fire Captain, Cary Stuart.

Just like fire drills at school, Stuart impressed upon Pioneer Elementary kindergartners and first graders how important it was to have a drill at home. He also told the students that their parents will be taking “attendance” to make sure all family members are safe just like teachers take attendance at school.

Stuart showed students how to dial 911, since many families now have cell phones instead of landlines and need to press “send” instead of just dialing the number. He also talked about the danger of playing with matches and lighters and asked families to check the batteries in their smoke detectors.

“It’s important for students and all family members to sleep with their bedroom doors closed,” said Stuart. “A closed door will limit the amount of smoke that can enter a bedroom.”



***Arlington students Shawn McKinley and Brock Schamp construct a bench during their Regional Apprenticeship Pathways (RAP) class. The RAP program kicked off this year and students are already learning skills that can help them graduate and focus on their careers.***

## Regional Apprenticeship Pathways program provides necessary skills for students seeking career pathways

The Regional Apprenticeship Pathways (RAP) program kicked off this year and students are already learning skills that can help them graduate and focus on their careers. The RAP Center is located on the Marysville-Pilchuck High School campus and the program is a partnership between Marysville School District, Arlington Public Schools, Everett Community College and other regional and state partners. The program was started with a \$1.5 million grant from Career Connect Washington. The purpose of the program is to close the skilled trade employees gap.

“There’s a huge need for skilled employees in our region and there’s about a 10 year gap in apprenticeships,” said Arlington Public Schools’ Director of College and Career Readiness, Brian Long. “The average age of an apprentice is 27 or 28. This program is trying to provide the students with the necessary skills so they can become apprentices with local unions at an earlier age.”

Juniors and seniors in North Snohomish County schools can apply for the RAP program. Students learn the skills necessary to prepare them for apprenticeships in construction, electrical and labors trades. There are plans to include more trade unions next year.

Twelve of the 25 students in the program are from Arlington. Students who complete the program will receive a certificate as well as college credit through Everett Community College. It will help prepare them for careers in construction, electrical, and other pathways.

“We’re trying to fulfill the needs of the workforce,” said Long. “For instance, Sound Transit projects that are heading north don’t have enough skilled employees to complete their projects. We’re preparing our students who want to go into these fields with the skills necessary to meet that demand.”

## Kent Prairie students gather school supplies for children in Uganda

Kent Prairie Elementary students have been gathering school supplies over the past few weeks so they can donate them to students in Uganda. For the past 30 years, an organization called Sister Schools has been working with schools to help with the donations to schools and orphanages in Uganda.

“There’s an incredible lack of school supplies in Uganda,” said Sister Schools Founder, Terry McGill. “These children are ecstatic to get a single pencil. These donations from Kent Prairie will have a huge impact.”



***Kent Prairie Elementary kindergartners, Jade Knudson and Lillyann Brogan, show some of the school supplies the students have been gathering over the past month. The school supplies are being donated to children in Uganda.***

This is the first time Sister Schools has worked with Kent Prairie. The supplies were donated in late October.

“Kent Prairie students are really trying to focus on service and they were very excited to be a part of this program,” said Kent Prairie Elementary Principal, Karl Olson. “It really gives our students a nice perspective on how students in another part of the world can benefit from their donations.”

Postal Customer ECRWSS

## A wonderful new school year is underway!

Arlington's school doors opened to the year with new opportunities for students to learn. Some of these include the Regional Apprenticeship Program (RAP), featuring hands-on learning with the construction, electrical and labor trades; the American Sign Language (ASL) course, which counts as a language credit; and the STEM-Like-Me program at the middle schools, where students connect in the classroom with career experts.

During the 2019-20 school year, we will continue to embrace our commitment to increase student learning and achievement. Our District Strategic Plan states that our mission is to educate, prepare and inspire EACH student to graduate and seek their full potential as a lifelong learner. The District Strategic Plan clearly identifies our priorities which are outlined in four goal areas: Student Learning and Achievement; Safe and Caring Environment; Resource Stewardship; and Parent and Community Partnerships. You can see the progress we our making toward each goal by checking out the District Data Dashboard on the homepage of the district website.

As you can see on the front page of this *Our Schools* publication, the school board recently approved a trio of election packages for voters to consider on Feb. 11, 2020. Each addresses different facility and operational needs. If you have questions or would like more information, please visit the district website at [www.asd.wednet.edu](http://www.asd.wednet.edu) or contact us at 360-618-6200.

Three "Community Voices" events are scheduled throughout the year to provide opportunities for district leaders to listen to parents and community members. Feedback will be gathered regarding what they feel is going well, areas they see as needing improvement and where they would like to see Arlington Public Schools in five years. The first event took place on Oct. 17. The feedback received was thoughtful. Some ideas received during this first event include:

### Identify 1-2 celebrations for your school and the district

- Front office staff is incredibly warm, kind, happy and inviting... always!



- Lots of options for kids
- This district holds up to its stellar reputation – our four children are better individuals, leaders and students because of EVERY teacher they have had!

### Identify improvements needed

- More preparation for real life (i.e. money/credit mgmt.)
- More communication to families, specifically when students fall behind on assignments
- More opportunities for family/community engagement

### In the next five years, I'd like to see Arlington Public Schools...

- I love uniforms...Is that an option?
- We need a new Post Middle School!
- Celebrate diversity all year

If you would like an invitation to attend one of the Community Voices events please contact your child's school principal or if you are a community member contact Julie Davis at 360-618-6202.

Thank you for being active partners with us to keep Arlington Public Schools the best place for Arlington students to learn!

Passionate for Student Learning!

Dr. Chrys Sweeting, Superintendent

Arlington Public Schools provides equal educational opportunity and treatment for all students in all aspects of the academic and activities program without discrimination based on race, religion, creed, color, national origin, age, honorably discharged veteran or military status, sex, sexual orientation, gender expression or identity, marital status, the presence of any sensory, mental, or physical disability, or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal by a person with a disability. The District will provide equal access to school facilities to the Boy Scouts of America and all other designated youth groups listed in Title 36 of the United States Code as a patriotic society. District programs will be free from sexual harassment. Auxiliary aids and services will be provided upon request to individuals with hearing, vision, or speech disabilities.

The following employees have been designated to handle questions and complaints of alleged discrimination:

#### TITLE IX OFFICER AND COMPLIANCE COORDINATOR

Mr. Eric DeJong  
Executive Director, Human Resources  
315 N French Ave.  
Arlington, WA 98223  
360.618.6212  
[edejong@asd.wednet.edu](mailto:edejong@asd.wednet.edu)

#### SECTION 504 COORDINATOR

Mr. Dave McKellar  
Director of Special Education  
315 N French Ave.  
Arlington, WA 98223  
360.618.6209  
[dmckellar@asd.wednet.edu](mailto:dmckellar@asd.wednet.edu)