

Arlington Public Schools is asking voters to consider three education funding measures to ensure students have equal access to:

- Safe and secure school buildings
- Rich and rigorous learning opportunities
- Strong educational programs and supports



**EDUCATE PREPARE INSPIRE**

*Levies and Bond 2020*

**ARLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

## Prop 1: Renews Educational Programs and Operations Levy (EP & O)

- Continues critical day-to-day operations not funded by the state including teachers, paraeducators, counselors, nurses, and other staff who support Arlington students
- Funds technology, instructional materials, and activities such as robotics, band, choir, drama and athletics
- Replaces an expiring levy
- New levy would expire end of 2025

## Prop 2: Capital Levy

- Funds safety and security improvements for every school in the district
- Ensures modern learning spaces to prepare students for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) career fields

- Builds additional classrooms to reduce crowding and adds science and art space for students at Arlington High School
- Capital Levy expires end of 2025

## Prop 3: Post Middle School Bond

- Builds a safe and secure Post Middle School
- Ensures Post Middle School students have access to comprehensive educational facilities equal to other schools in the district
- Provides a modern, energy-efficient building that reduces operating costs
- Bond paid off in 2040



# Capital Levy Projects Make IMPROVEMENTS to EVERY SCHOOL

**PROP. 1: Renews Educational Programs and Operations Levy (EP&O)**



**PROP. 2: Capital Levy**



**PROP. 3: Post Middle School Bond**



## Projects to Improve Safety

- CLOCK/INTERCOM:** Eagle Creek Elementary School
- FIRE ALARM/FIRE SPRINKLERS:** Eagle Creek Elementary School
- STUDENT DROP OFF IMPROVEMENTS:** Kent Prairie Elementary School
- PEDESTRIAN/TRAFFIC SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS:** Post Middle School

## Projects to Improve Security

- CAMERAS AND ACCESS CONTROLS:** Arlington High School, Weston High School, Haller Middle School, Post Middle School, Eagle Creek Elementary School, Kent Prairie Elementary School, Pioneer Elementary School
- CAMERAS:** Presidents Elementary School, Stillaguamish Valley Learning Center
- CLASSROOM DOOR LOCKS:** Arlington High School, Weston High School, Haller Middle School, Post Middle School, Eagle Creek Elementary School, Kent Prairie Elementary School, Pioneer Elementary School
- DOOR LOCKS:** Presidents Elementary School, Stillaguamish Valley Learning Center
- FENCING:** Post Middle School
- SECURE ENTRIES:** Arlington High School, Weston High School, Haller Middle School, Eagle Creek Elementary School, Kent Prairie Elementary School, Pioneer Elementary School, Presidents Elementary School

## Projects to Ensure Adequate Classroom Space and Support STEM Subjects

- CLASSROOM ADDITION:** Arlington High School
- NEW SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, ART, AND MATH WORKSHOP:** Arlington High School
- Projects to Extend Building Life
- CARPET REPLACEMENT:** Eagle Creek Elementary School, Kent Prairie Elementary School
- GYM FLOORING REPLACEMENT:** Eagle Creek Elementary School, Kent Prairie Elementary School
- Projects to Improve Resource Efficiency
- HEATING/VENTILATION SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS:** Eagle Creek Elementary School, Kent Prairie Elementary School, Weston High School

## What is the combined cost of the three measures

Unlike state taxes for education, this funding stays in our district to support APS students, schools and staff.

*\*If the Post Middle School Bond and the Capital Levy are both approved by voters, the bond issue will be reduced by the amount included in the Capital Levy for Post Middle School projects. The amount collected in the Capital Levy for Post Middle School projects will be used to pay for the new Post Middle School.*

YEAR	PROP 1 EP&O	PROP 2 Capital	PROP 3 Bond	TOTAL EP&O + Capital + Bond	For a house valued at \$300,000, the yearly cost for Arlington Public Schools taxes
2017	\$3.51	0	\$1.42	\$4.93	\$1,479
2018	\$3.31	0	\$1.37	\$4.68	\$1,404
2019	\$1.50	0	\$1.19	\$2.69	\$807
2020	\$1.50	0	\$1.19	\$2.69	\$807
If approved					
2021-24	\$1.70	\$1.15	\$0.64	\$3.49	\$1,047
2025-40	\$1.70	0	\$0.96	\$2.66	\$798

## How do I register to vote?

There are three ways to register to vote:

### Online

[snohomishcountywa.gov/3969/Voters](http://snohomishcountywa.gov/3969/Voters)

### By mail

- Download a voter registration form from [www.sos.wa.gov/elections/print-voter-registration-forms.aspx](http://www.sos.wa.gov/elections/print-voter-registration-forms.aspx) or pick up a form at any local library or other government offices.
- Complete and mail to  
Snohomish County Elections  
3000 Rockefeller Ave, M/S 505  
Everett, WA 98201

### In Person

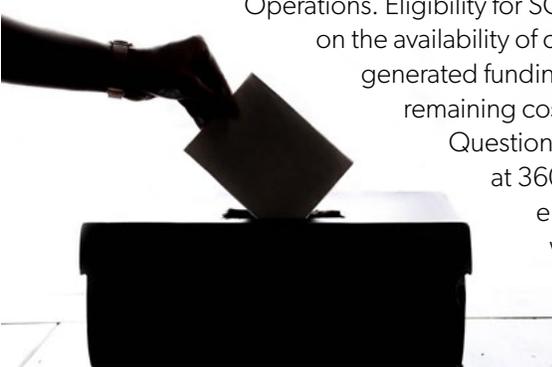
Visit the Snohomish County Elections Office location listed above.



## APS Eligible for State Assistance on Post Middle School Rebuild

Proposition 3 on the February ballot, if approved by 60% of voters, would authorize the school district to issue \$71.5 million in bonds to rebuild Post Middle School on the same site. The total project cost is \$83 million; Arlington Public Schools is eligible to receive \$11.5 million in state assistance to complete the project. The funding is available through the School Construction Assistance Program (SCAP). "SCAP is great way for Arlington to bring back tax money to the district to help our students learn in a safer building that better supports science, technology, engineering and mathematics programs," said Brian Lewis, APS' Executive Director of Operations. Eligibility for SCAP is dependent on the availability of community-generated funding to cover the remaining costs of the project.

Questions? Call Brian Lewis at 360-618-6238 or email at [blewis@asd.wednet.edu](mailto:blewis@asd.wednet.edu).



## Tax relief options

Senior citizens over the age of 61, people with disabilities, disabled veterans, and people with limited incomes may qualify for property tax exemptions or deferral under Washington state law.

Contact the Snohomish County Assessor's office for more information.

**Phone:**  
425-388-3540

**Email:**  
[contact.assessor@co.snohomish.wa.us](mailto:contact.assessor@co.snohomish.wa.us)

**Online:**  
<https://snohomishcountywa.gov/328/Property-Tax-Exemptions>

### Want to learn more?

[https://www.asd.wednet.edu/2020\\_levies\\_and\\_bond](https://www.asd.wednet.edu/2020_levies_and_bond)

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  
[dcmckellar@asd.wednet.edu](mailto:dcmckellar@asd.wednet.edu)

Postal Customer ECRWSS

## Arlington School Board maintains level tax rate for 2020

At its Nov. 25 meeting, the Arlington School Board voted to maintain the current Educational Programs and Operations (EP&O) Levy tax rate at \$1.50 per \$1,000 of assessed value for 2020. The board is required to certify the tax amount to Snohomish County each year in November. This is the last year of the four-year EP&O Levy approved by Arlington voters in 2016, which authorized amounts of \$3.56 per \$1,000 of assessed value.

In 2018 and 2019, state law capped school district local operating levies at \$1.50 per \$1,000 of assessed value. A new law passed in 2019 allowed school boards to levy up to \$2.50 per \$1,000 of assessed value for operating levies. The Arlington School Board chose to keep the rate at the \$1.50 amount.



"This is the taxpayer's money and we don't want to collect more than we absolutely need to fund our daily operations to support student learning," said Superintendent, Dr. Chrys Sweeting. "It's important to the board that we are good stewards of the district's resources."

"While the state did increase funding to districts this year, it was not enough to fully sustain the daily operations of the district," said Executive Director of Financial Services, Gina Zeutenhorst. "This is why local tax money is still critical. We need these funds to cover the difference."

Voter-approved local taxes support 9% of Arlington Public Schools' annual operating budget. These funds pay for crucial day-to-day operations not funded by the state including teachers, paraeducators, counselors, nurses, and other staff who support Arlington students.

The current EP&O Levy expires at the end of 2020. Voters will consider a new four-year EP&O Levy on Feb. 11, 2020.

***At its Nov. 25 meeting, the school board voted to maintain the current Educational Programs and Operations Levy tax rate at \$1.50 per \$1,000 of assessed value for 2020.***

## APS Collects Construction Impact Fees in 2019

***Previously collected impact fees allowed the district to add portable classrooms***

The Arlington Public Schools Board of Directors requested in 2018 that Snohomish County and the city of Arlington begin collecting school impact fees in 2019. The district used previously collected school impact fees to add four new portable classrooms to Kent Prairie Elementary School in 2018. The classrooms helped provide space needed for new students in the Kent Prairie attendance area.

Washington State public schools are permitted to request that counties and cities impose fees on new residential construction within the school district's boundaries. Public schools then use the fees to build new classrooms needed due to growth in student enrollment associated with new residential construction.

"School impact fees help us respond to enrollment growth," said Arlington Public Schools Executive Director of Operations, Brian Lewis. "New residential construction brings more students

to our schools and impact fees help provide the space we need in which to educate them. Builders then share the cost of new school facilities."

School impact fees can only be spent on new construction or remodeling of school buildings needed in response to growth in student enrollment. Through November 2019, builders paid \$160,000 in school impact fees to Arlington Public Schools to support new school construction.

Impact fees are one part of the range of funds used to pay for new school construction or remodeling. Schools continue to rely primarily on voter-approved bonds or Capital Projects Fund levies to support the vast majority of the cost of school construction. Fees collected in 2019 will be used to offset the cost of providing new classrooms or school buildings in the future.

## Dear Families and Community Members,

The State of Arlington Public Schools is bright and strong. I am extremely proud to be part of the dedicated and amazing school district team. Thank you for partnering with us to make rich teaching and learning happen every day for EACH of our students.



We are making steady progress to fully implement our Strategic Plan. The District Strategic Plan is focused on increasing performance in four goal areas:

- Student Learning and Achievement;
- Safe and Caring Environment;
- Resource Stewardship; and
- Parent and Community Partnerships.

In this State of the District message, I am sharing a snapshot of the positive gains and improvements we are making in each goal area, as well as areas where opportunity and achievement gaps still exist.

This year, our progress is noteworthy in many areas and yet there is always room for growth and progress. We will be relentless in our continued pursuit of meeting our district mission to educate, prepare and inspire all students to graduate and seek their potential as lifelong learners. Thank you Arlington families and community members for your support.

Passionate for Student Learning!

Dr. Chrys Sweeting, Superintendent

## Student Learning and Achievement

The district graduation rate has climbed to an all-time high of 90%! This has been a steady increase over the last three years. We have increased opportunities and the number of pathways for students to earn their diplomas to support and lead each student to graduation success. Students can secure high school credits in a variety of ways including earning credits during eighth grade in algebra and physical education. Students can also earn dual credits where the credits count for high school and college credit as well as earn industry certifications to increase vocational readiness.

A Math Task Force comprised of staff, parents, students, and community members is in its third year of collaboration. The purpose of the task force is to identify actions to foster a positive mathematical growth mindset and to implement actions that specifically increase math learning and achievement K-12. Even though our mathematical performance is above the state average, our performance in mathematics needs improvement to fully prepare each student for career, college and life.

Classroom and support staff across the district are engaged in important professional development learning rich teaching and culturally responsive practices.

We will continue to increase access and remove barriers to promote equity and academic success for EACH student.

### Class of 2019

● 4-YEAR ○ 5-YEAR

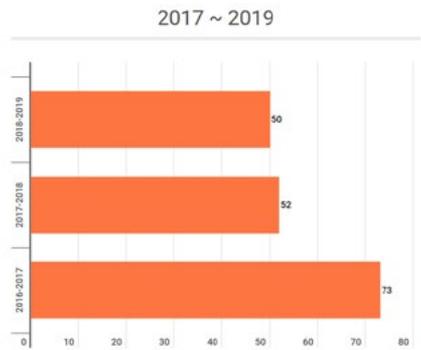


## Safe and Caring Environment Progress

We are addressing safety and security needs using a comprehensive approach. This involves looking at both internal and external safety considerations including facility design, safety equipment needs, professional development, social, emotional and behavioral support, and a systemic student threat assessment process. We continue to closely monitor discipline referrals, attendance, and the practice of safety drills for situations such as fire, intruder, earthquake, evacuation and reunification. We refined our school visitor and volunteer processes to include background checks and required volunteer training. We provided contact information for the SafeSchools Alert Tipline on magnets which were mailed to every family this fall. Metal signs with the tipline information are being installed in bathrooms and locker rooms in schools across the district.

The number of Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying incidents have decreased over the last three years. We will continue to actively foster a safe and caring environment for our students to learn.

## HARASSMENT, INTIMIDATION AND BULLYING INCIDENTS



## Resource Stewardship Progress

We are serious about maximizing our resources to benefit student learning. Highlights of positive stewardship include decreased utility costs, clean financial and program audits, the purchase of 10 new buses and a plan to buy more over the next three years, a fund balance well within the approved policy requirements, school supplies provided for all students and the elimination of student athletic fees.



Each year we review "need" requests from staff for additional resources. This year, we allocated additional K-3 teachers to lower class size, expanded behavior/mental health support to assist with the increasing social-emotional needs of our students, maintained the academic intervention bus at the high schools, and added additional para-educators and office support to schools.

We have wonderful staff who love working in Arlington. They are essential, important and mission critical to ensure success for EACH student. Our teacher retention rates are high and the average years of experience for teaching staff continues to increase. Over the last three years, instructional staff has been added to serve an increased enrollment of about 100 additional students each year and for class size needs.

We continue to be committed to transparent stewardship of the district's resources to benefit student learning and achievement.

## Parent and Community Partnership

We partner with numerous community organizations who support student learning. In fact, there are over 30 organizations who partner with us. One example is the Arlington Education Foundation (AEF) that makes classroom mini-grants available to teachers twice each year. Recently, they provided nearly \$10,000 to fund classroom mini-grants in our district.

We continue to add opportunities to engage families and community members in the work of the district and share in making critical decisions that impact student learning. This year, in addition to listening to students and staff feedback during Student and Staff Voices at each school, we added Community Voices where parents and community members come together to share celebrations, ideas for improvements, and are asked where they would like to see Arlington Public Schools in five years. We make better decisions together. If you would like to participate in one of the Community Voices events, please contact Julie Davis in the Superintendent's office at 360-618-6202 or [jdavis@asd.wednet.edu](mailto:jdavis@asd.wednet.edu).

This year, we added district committees where parents, students, staff and community members are meeting to discuss and grapple with issues such as: 1) District Calendar and Professional Development Schedule; 2) Potential Later Start Time for Secondary Schools in the future; 3) Bond Oversight Committee to oversee capital projects; and 4) A-Building Task Force to study the potential uses for the former Arlington High School building.

We believe frequent communication between the school district and our families and community members is vital. We continue to refine and enhance our methods and increase our communication with you, a critical partner in this important work.

## PARENTS/COMMUNITY MEMBERS ON DISTRICT COMMITTEES

