

School board approves running levies and bond in February election

The Arlington Public Schools Board of Directors approved at its Oct. 23 meeting running an Educational Programs and Operations (EP&O) Levy, a Capital Levy to support the modernization and remodeling of school facilities, and a bond to replace Post Middle School and improve traffic flow onto the Post/Eagle Creek/Stillaguamish Valley Learning Center campus. Community members would vote on the levies and bond during the Feb. 13, 2024 election.

“It’s important for Arlington students to learn and thrive in a safe and comfortable learning environment.”

- Mary Levesque, School Board President

THE FOUR-YEAR EP&O LEVY is a renewal of the existing four-year EP&O Levy, which expires at the end of 2024. 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.

Estimated EP&O Levy • Rate/\$1,000

Collection Year	Assessed Value	Levy Amount
2025	\$1.65	\$13,460,000
2026	\$1.64	\$13,796,000
2027	\$1.63	\$14,141,000
2028	\$1.62	\$14,500,000

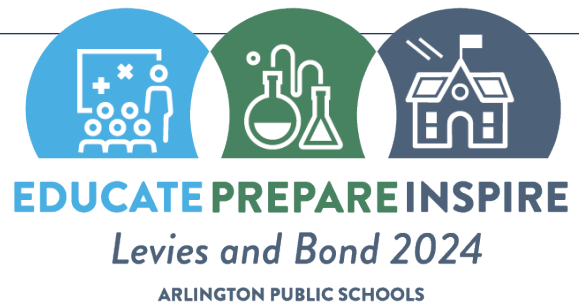
THE FOUR-YEAR CAPITAL LEVY pays for districtwide health, safety, infrastructure and facility improvements, including, but not limited to replacing, repairing, upgrading, modernizing and/or improving roofing, heating, ventilation and air conditioning, mechanical and electrical systems and equipment, windows, technology infrastructure (e.g., fiber and telecommunications), kitchen equipment, plumbing, and paving and parking; and making other health, safety, infrastructure and facility improvements at district facilities.

Estimated Capital Levy • Rate \$1,000

Collection Year	Assessed Value	Levy Amount
2025	\$.77	\$6,334,000
2026	\$.77	\$6,492,000
2027	\$.77	\$6,654,000
2028	\$.76	\$6,821,000

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 \$95 million.

“It’s important for Arlington students to learn and thrive in a safe and comfortable learning environment,” said Arlington School Board President, Mary Levesque. “The EP&O Levy, Capital Levy, and bond to replace Post Middle School and improve traffic flow onto the Post/Eagle Creek/Stillaguamish Valley Learning Center campus will further ensure all students will have the best possible educational experience for years to come.”



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What a great start to the 2023-24 School Year!

Dear Arlington Students, Families and Community Members,

The new 2023-24 school year started with smiles, excitement, and anticipation of a great year ahead.

Throughout the summer, staff prepared and planned for the opening of the new school year. Many projects were completed over the summer, and some are still in the works.

In late August, District Day took place where all school and district staff met to kick off the year and engage in professional development. Our guest speaker, Shelley Moore, shared how important the sense of belonging and acceptance is in the instructional environment to increase learning. Being included is more than just sitting in the room. Research also supports that belonging has a significant impact on student well-being, academic learning/achievement and mental health. We want to ensure that all students "Belong & Learn" in Arlington!

This year, our focus on the Universal Design for Learning approach continues, where we intentionally identify and remove barriers to learning and implement ways to increase access to learning. Last year, students shared at several board meetings how this approach enhanced their learning. One student shared that the choice of formats and ways to demonstrate their knowledge, understanding and application of learning of a salmon's life cycle, other than just a test or a quiz, increased their engagement and connection to the content. Another student shared that given a list of choices to show her knowledge and learning, she decided to choose all listed, whereas in the past, she would have only completed the one required.

We are thankful to the Arlington community for supporting our schools. We have increased security and safety districtwide. We have new instructional learning spaces. We have other health and safety additions such as flooring installed, air ventilation systems

updated or replaced, and heating systems where boilers were replaced that were no longer working.

Your partnership has made these things and more possible. Thank you!

We invite you to continue partnering with us by:

- Getting and staying connected with your child's school(s)
- Sharing your feedback on surveys
- Becoming a member of a district committee
- Attending board meetings in-person or virtually
- Providing public comments in-person or virtually at regular board meetings
- Attending a "Community Voices" event where you can share in-person what is working, what improvements are needed and ideas/suggestions you have
- Getting involved with family support organizations such as PTA, PTSA, Boosters and other support groups

We have so much to be grateful for including our amazing students, dedicated staff, our partnership with you, living in this place we call home, Arlington, and so much more.

Thank you for supporting our students!



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/SEX EQUITY OFFICER AND CIVIL RIGHTS COMPLIANCE COORDINATOR: Mr. Eric DeJong, Executive Director, Human Resources, 315 N French Ave., Arlington, WA 98223, 360.618.6212, edejong@asd.wednet.edu. HARASSMENT, INTIMIDATION AND BULLYING (HIB) COMPLIANCE OFFICER: Ms. Kerri Helgeson, Director of Equity and Student Well-Being, 315 N French Ave., Arlington, WA 98223, 360.618.6228, khelgeson@asd.wednet.edu. SECTION 504/ADA COORDINATOR: Mr. Dave McKellar, Director of Special Education, 315 N French Ave., Arlington, WA 98223, 360.618.6209, dmckellar@asd.wednet.edu