

ARLINGTON

Public Schools

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

A publication for the Arlington community

Winter 2016

Your Arlington Public Schools Report



Dear Arlington Community,

I hope you had a wonderful holiday season! We are excited to start the 2016 year and look forward to continuing to provide excellent service to our students, families and community. A lot has happened at the state and national level over the past couple months and we are excited to share many exciting updates at our local level as well.

First, on a national level, Congress passed the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) which is a long-overdue reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. The new legislation amends the very unrealistic No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) as well as significantly lessens the federal role in public education.

On a state level, we are awaiting any changes to our accountability system from our State Board of Education as a result of the new Every Student Succeeds Act. In addition, we are following closely the response of our Legislature to the McCleary Decision.

On a local level, we continue to remain laser-focused on our core work - ensuring every child, every hour, every day achieves his or her full potential! We are excited about the

many new and innovative programs we have added this school year: full-time kindergarten for all; The Leader in Me at Presidents Elementary; STEM pilot at Post Middle School; Project-Based Learning; Construction Geometry; extended school day and school year, and Manufacturing to name a few. Our dedicated staff are working hard and being creative to ensure we are meeting ALL of our students' needs each and every day.

Another important local update is that we are asking our voter's to renew our expiring Educational Programs and Operations Levy on February 9. This is not a new tax, but a renewal of an expiring tax. Our local levy funds

24% of our programs and operations. Please see the enclosed message regarding details of our upcoming levy as well as meeting times and location to get further information.

Thank you for all that you do to make this such a special community. It is an honor to serve as your superintendent.

All the best in this new year!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kristine".

Dr. Kristine McDuffy
Superintendent



AHS Construction Geometry students use geometry as they collaborate to make stairs.

Estimated Levy Rates

The school district is keeping the levy rate at the same level as the expiring levy. Districts are allowed to collect only the amount of money approved by voters. The amounts Arlington Public Schools is asking voters to consider and the estimated tax rate for each \$1,000 of assessed valuation are in the chart below. When assessed property values change, the tax rate is adjusted to ensure that the district collects only the levy dollar amount approved by voters.

Proposed Four-Year Renewal Levy Estimated Rates			
Tax Calendar Year	Levy Amount	Tax Rate Per \$1,000 of Assessed Value	Est. Annual Tax for \$200,000 Home
2015	\$11,824,545	3.605	\$721
2016	\$12,605,786	3.58	\$716
2017	\$13,316,574	3.56	\$712
2018	\$13,982,402	3.56	\$712
2019	\$14,541,698	3.56	\$712
2020	\$15,123,366	3.56	\$712

Note: These are only estimates of the proposed rates.

Arlington Public Schools educates all students, preparing and inspiring them to achieve their full potential.



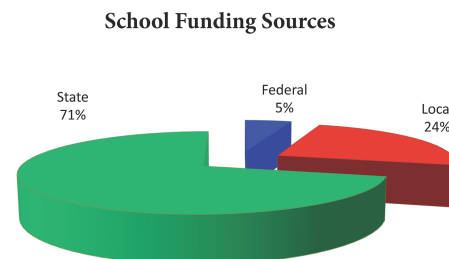
Eagle Creek Elementary students listen attentively on the first day of school.

Important Levy Facts

- On February 9, 2016, voters will be asked to vote on the Renewal of Expiring Educational Programs and Operations Levy for Arlington Public Schools.
- This is not a new tax, but a renewal of a current tax expiring at the end of 2016.
- These funds support school district instructional programs and operations.
- State law requires school districts to periodically ask voters to consider renewal of the local levy.
- The measure on the ballot will be a four-year educational programs and operations levy that would be collected 2017 through 2020.

Why Do Schools Rely on Levies?

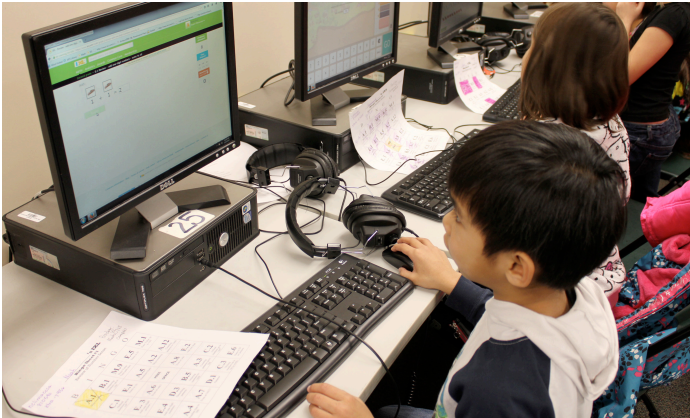
School funding resources are spread across local, state and federal sources. Approximately 71% of the school districts funding is provided through state allocation, 24% is from local taxes and fees, and 5% is from the federal allotments.



Arlington Public Schools Acknowledged for Financial Stewardship

The district has received recognition at both the state and national levels for our effective and efficient fiscal practices.

Renewal of Expiring Programs and Operations Levy February 9, 2016



Pioneer students use BINGO and computer software to learn math calculations.

Please join us for an informal informational meeting at the district administration building, 315 N. French Ave. to learn more about the levy at one of the sessions below:

Thursday, January 7 at 4:00 p.m.

or

Wednesday, January 20 at 7:00 a.m.

WHAT DO OUR LEVIES FUND?

College/Career Readiness

Preparing our students for their future in college and career is our paramount duty. Your tax dollars are used for programs, such as:

- Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) project-based learning programs
- World Languages
- Health and Fitness
- Social Studies/History
- English/Language Arts
- Fine and Performing Arts
- Career and Technical Education

New Programs

We now have full-time, tuition-free kindergarten for all children at every elementary. In addition, we have added art in each of our elementary schools.

At Presidents Elementary, students are learning to become leaders in the community through *The Leader in Me* program.

Post Middle School students are involved in pilot testing project-based STEM classes.

Arlington High School is offering a Manufacturing Program of Study to prepare graduates for high demand, high wage fields within Snohomish County.

Weston High School is holding three project-based learning opportunities for their student body.

These are a few examples of the wonderful programs we offer our students in grades preschool through grade twelve.

Athletics

Our athletic programs for middle and high school students build skills in teamwork, commitment, character, self-discipline and hard work. Many of our graduates also benefit financially, from participating in sports, when they receive athletic scholarships to attend colleges and universities.

Activities

Elementary-aged children have the opportunity to participate in a volunteer choir program at each of our schools in addition to their

music class each week. High school students can participate in a variety of clubs (i.e., Knowledge Bowl, National Honor Society, world language clubs, drama, band, etc.)

Technology

Our students have access to current technology across the district. Elementary students are learning how to develop Google documents and use Chrome Books, while older students benefit from multi-media, CAD, and a variety of engineering software.

Health/Safety

Levies also support school nurses, our School Resource Officer, and emergency preparedness.

For more information visit www.asd.wednet.edu or contact Andrea Conley at 360.618.6217.

**Every child,
every hour,
every day!**

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Arlington, WA 98223

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Your Feedback is Important to Us!

This school year, Arlington has been working on ensuring that we are collecting and sharing appropriate data with various groups from teachers and schools to our school board and community. Part of this process is trying to determine which data each group finds useful and would like to see reported on a regular basis.

In the past, Arlington Public Schools has communicated information on the following items:

- Perception Surveys

- Attendance (General)
- Discipline (General)
- School Safety
- Recognition
- Demographic Profile
- Achievement Index
- State Standardized Test Scores – Smarter Balanced Assessments, Measures of Student Progress, End-of-Course Exams etc.
- Graduation Rates
- Credits Earned
- Budget Reserve
- Staff Information – Staff Retention, National Board Certified Teachers etc.

Please take a few minutes to provide feedback on our district's use of data via the following survey:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MKFDHS3>

Mark Your Calendars

State of the District Address

Dr. McDuffy will provide a report on the state of the district in relation to student learning, the district's budget, facilities and the continuous improvement process.

January 28, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. at Eagle Creek Elementary Library

Golden Eagles Pie Social

Seniors citizens are treated to pie and an opportunity to hear music from students as well informal time with district staff. Golden Eagles will receive a postcard invitation with details.

March 17, 2016 at 1:30 p.m. at Eagle Creek Elementary Library

Know Your Schools

Join us for lunch while hearing about district updates. Then enjoy a tour of an elementary, middle and high schools where you can hear from the students as they take you on a tour of their campus.

April 26, 2016 at 11:30 a.m. at the district administration building

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, ancestry, national origin, age, marital status, honorably discharged veteran or military status, gender, gender expression or identity, sexual orientation, 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.

TITLE IX OFFICER COMPLIANCE COORDINATOR

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