

ARLINGTON

Public Schools

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

A publication for our residents

Winter 2015

Your Arlington Public

Schools Report

From Your Superintendent

Dear Arlington School District Families & Friends,

As we begin 2015 together, we reflect on the progress we're making, the challenges and opportunities ahead, and how grateful we are to live and work in such a caring, committed community.

Your school district staff have been working hard to provide the very best educational opportunities possible for each and every one of the 5,456 children we serve each day. Every child, every hour, every day deserves our very best.

There are a lot of distractions at the state and national level in public education right now – changing goals; shifting accountability systems; and uncertain/unstable funding to name a few.

In Arlington Public Schools, we have been working hard over the past several years to create clarity and focus! Our Strategic Plan, Collective Commitments, District Essentials and on-going continuous improvement cycle have provided our "North Star." Just as early explorers needed help navigating uncharted or rough waters, we too need a stable point of light to guide our work.



MISSION:

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

VISION:

Student Achievement

- Every Arlington student graduates well prepared and motivated for future education and employment.
- Staff delivers a research-based, challenging, and aligned curriculum in every classroom, using assessment data to improve instruction.
- Students and families are active and integral participants in the learning process.

Safe and Caring Environment

- Everyone shares responsibility for a positive school culture/environment.
- Safe/efficient facilities and equipment are provided.
- Respectful conduct and civility are universally expected. Diversity is valued and respected.

Stewardship

- Everyone shares responsibility for the care of Arlington Public Schools equipment and facilities.
- Prudent management of taxpayer investment is expected.

Continuous Improvement

- Continuous improvement of all programs is expected and supported (based on research and data).
- Administrators are accountable for measurable cycles of improvement.
- Clear, consistent, and transparent communication is practiced.

COLLECTIVE COMMITMENTS:

- Learning is our Core
- We Work in High-Performing Teams
- We Use Data to Drive Our Decisions
- We Engage and Partner with Our Community

OUR DISTRICT ESSENTIALS:

- Every Child, Every Hour, Every Day
- Coherence - Aligning Our Work
- Professional Learning Communities
- Fiscal Responsibility
- Positive, Professional Working & Learning Environment

The clarity and focus to our work is making a real difference. We have so much to celebrate. Here are a few recent examples:

- Schools of Distinction: Post Middle (2008, 2009); Stillaguamish Valley (2009); Kent Prairie Elementary (2009, 2013); Arlington High (2011, 2012); and Presidents Elementary (2013)

- Washington Achievement Award: Kent Prairie Elementary (2012)

In addition, the District received the following acknowledgements:

- Cited as one of the most efficient school districts in the state by the State Auditor's Office (2011).
- Recognized as one of the best school districts in the state for high achieving/low spending by the Center for American Progress (2011).
- Recognized for the past two years by the Washington State Patrol for exceptional results in the annual inspection of our bus fleet (2012 and 2013).
- Awarded Western Washington Fresh Foods in Schools Champion by the Washington Sustainable Food and Farming Network (2013).
- The Puget Sound Business Journal listed Arlington as #4 on the list of the best places to live in the Puget Sound region based on school performance (2014).

We look forward to continuing to partner with you to provide the very best educational system in the state. Thank you. It's an honor to serve as your superintendent.

Dr. Kristine McDuffy
Superintendent



APS School Board Members and Student Advisors
(left to right: Superintendent Dr. Kristine McDuffy, Sarai Muñoz, Dr. Jeff Huleatt, Ms. Kay Duskin, Mr. Jim Weiss, Ms. Ursula Ghirardo, Mr. Bob McClure, and Connor Ghirardo)

Levy Facts

A Safer Ride to School Two-Year School Bus Levy

The February 10th ballot will ask voters in the Arlington Public Schools area to approve a Two-Year School Bus Levy, which would provide \$1,500,000 in 2015 and \$1,500,000 in 2016 for the purchase of new school buses. On average, the levy will cost the average homeowner approximately \$6.60 per month.

Our Aging Fleet

Arlington Public Schools has the oldest bus fleet in Snohomish County.

- Older buses are increasingly more costly and difficult to maintain.
- Replacement parts for older buses are difficult to find.
- New buses are more fuel efficient and have substantially reduced emissions.

Safety First

Newer school buses provide a safer and more dependable ride for children with improved:

- Seating with better and safer seats
- Additional emergency exits
- Modern braking and traction control systems
- Strengthened body construction

Two-Year Levy Valuation

\$.43 per \$1,000 valuation for year one
\$.41 per \$1,000 valuation for year two



For a house valued at \$100,000, a homeowner would pay approximately **\$3.58/month** the first year and **\$3.42/month** the second year.

For a house valued at \$184,300*, a homeowner would pay approximately **\$6.60/month** the first year and **\$6.30/month** the second year.

For a house valued at \$300,000, a homeowner would pay approximately **\$10.75/month** the first year and **\$10.25/month** the second year.

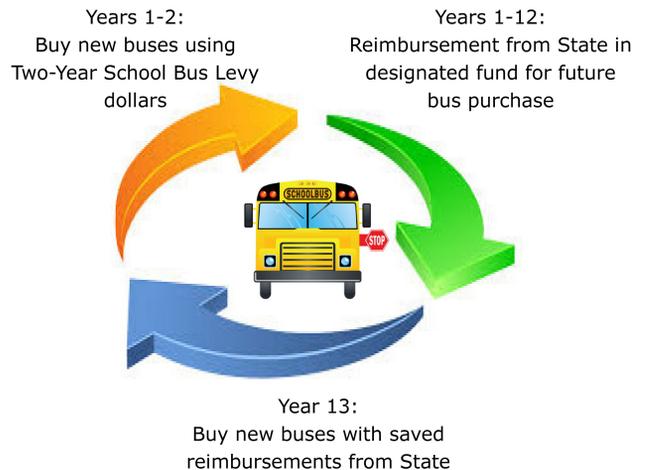
* \$184,300 is the median home value in Arlington

The proposed levy is a fixed amount and cannot change from what voters approve. The levy positions the district to receive additional state dollars to purchase new buses through at least 2040.

Facts

Daily miles our buses drive	4,800 miles/day
Percentage of buses older than 12 years	49%
Our oldest bus in the fleet	28 years

SCHOOL BUS FUNDING CYCLE WITH TWO-YEAR SCHOOL BUS LEVY



Remember to mail your ballot by FEBRUARY 10TH!

Special Events Coming Up

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



ARLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

7th Annual

State of the District Address

Thursday, January 29, 2015

6:00 p.m.

Pioneer Elementary School Library

8213 Eaglefield Dr., Arlington

GOLDEN EAGLE PIE SOCIAL

Arlington Public Schools holds a popular annual Golden Eagle Club Pie Social each spring for our senior citizen members. This is an informal time for Dr. McDuffy to provide an update on the district and answer questions from participants over pie and coffee. Elementary school choirs love to come and perform for our seniors during the event.

When: Thursday, March 12, 2015
2:00 - 3:30 p.m.

Where: Presidents Elementary School
505 East 3rd St., Arlington

Please RSVP to Andrea Conley, Public Information Coordinator, at 360-618-6217.

The facility is wheelchair accessible.

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Families of incoming kindergarten students are invited to attend an information night:

When: Thursday, March 12, 2015
6:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Where: Pioneer Elementary School
8213 Eaglefield Drive

March 16, 2015, will be opening day for kindergarten registration. Parents can register at their neighborhood school where forms will be available. To register their child, parents will need to bring an official state birth certificate, immunization dates, and proof of residency (i.e., utility bill).

Parents who live outside of the district boundaries and wish to have their child attend school in Arlington, will need to obtain a variance form from the district they reside in prior to registering. Variances will be available in March.

KNOW YOUR SCHOOLS

Our spring *Know Your Schools* event is scheduled for:

When: Thursday, April 23, 2015
8:30 to 11:00 a.m.

Where: District Administrative Office
315 N. French Ave., Arlington

Breakfast will be provided and Dr. McDuffy, Superintendent, will update participants on the district and answer questions.

Following breakfast, we will take participants on a tour of three schools (an elementary, middle and high school) where they can interact with students and teachers in the classroom.

Please RSVP to Andrea Conley, Public Information Coordinator, at 360-618-6217.

College and Career Ready

The term “College and Career Readiness” has gained popularity in our vocabulary over the past decade. College and Career Readiness is more than a new term; it is a new way of looking at the number and kind of credits that students earn in high school in order to be prepared for their post-high school life.

In Washington State, it is our State Board of Education (SBE) that is charged with establishing graduation requirements, which currently includes both credit requirements and a student’s High School and Beyond Plan (RCW.28A.230.090). The requirements set by the SBE were 19 credits for the class of 2012 and 20 credits for the classes of 2013-2015. With the 2014 legislative session and the passage of E2SSB 6552, the SBE implemented the 24-credit graduation requirement for the class of 2019 and beyond. (Prior to the 24-credit requirement, districts could locally determine a higher credit requirement. Arlington Public Schools has been requiring 22.5 credits since 2008.)

In this new framework, a student who is “College and Career Ready” graduates from high school with the knowledge and skills in English and mathematics necessary to be successful in their post-secondary education or in job training for the career they choose. This includes a broad array of experiences, including community college, university, technical/vocational program, apprenticeship, or significant on-the-job training. The vehicle that prepares them to be “College and Career Ready” is the 24-credit framework, which allows students the ability to customize their education to meet their post-high school goals through “personalized pathways.” The 24-credit framework includes the following:

- An increase from two to three credits in science
- An increase from one to two credits in the fine arts
- Implementation of a world language requirement - two years are now required
- The required third year of mathematics can be met with a math equivalency
- Development of a new way of granting equivalency for credits earned in Career and Technical Education (CTE) classes. For select courses, CTE courses can also count as math and science courses at the same time.

When students develop their personalized pathway, an agreement takes place between the family and school in which the new additional credit requirements can be met by other credits related to a student’s career interest area.

Arlington Public Schools is already working hard to prepare for implementation of these requirements by forming a College and Career Readiness Task Force to look at what is being done now and to build a bridge to the new requirements. The task force includes a student, a board member, parents, teachers, counselors, and administrators. Tasks that have begun and will be completed include:

- Evaluating Board Policy regarding graduation requirements and determine if changes are needed.
- Investigating best practices and programming to prepare students for college and/or the new work force.
- Implementing a new customized High School and Beyond Plan with a personalized pathway that travels with the student as they go through middle and high school years in Arlington.
- Engaging teachers to evaluate current offerings and future needs.

The College and Career Ready framework asks that districts examine their current practices and determine what changes will need to take place to be ready for the class of 2019. Some of these changes will be minor, while others will require us to think differently about what courses and options we offer to our students.

Graduation Requirements and High School & Beyond



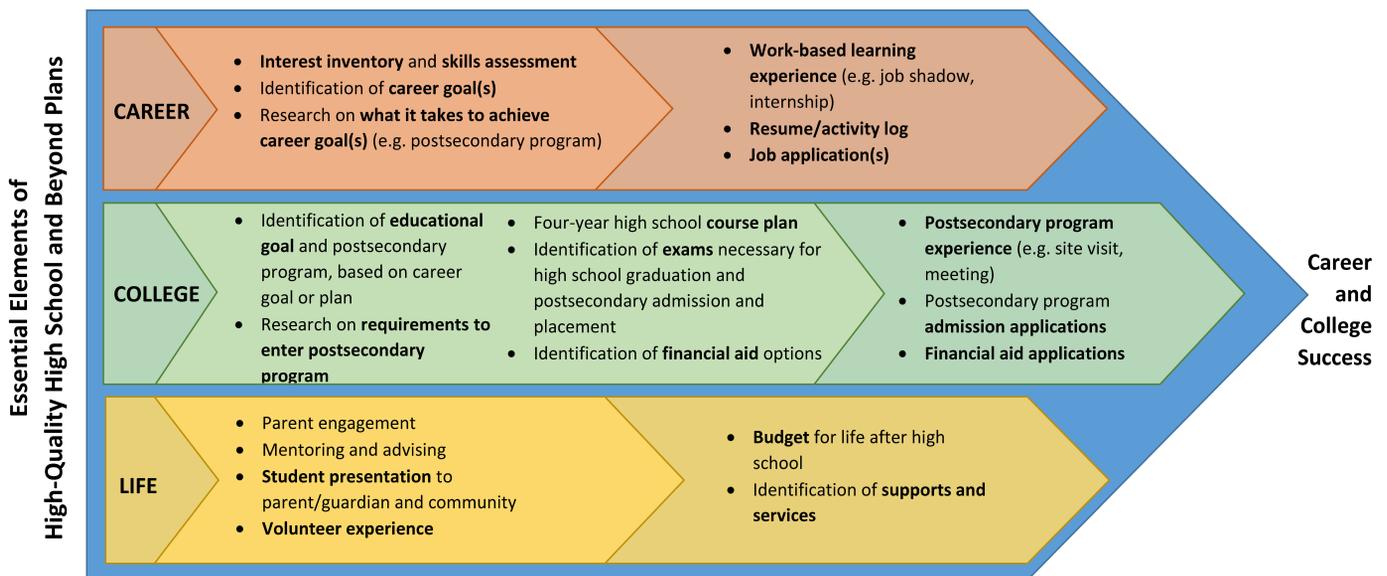
Graduation Course-Taking Requirements

Subject	Requirements for the Classes of 2016, 2017 & 2018	Career- & College-Ready Graduation Requirements for the Class of 2019 & Beyond
English	4	4
Math	3	3
Science	2 (1 lab)	3 (2 lab)
Social Studies	3	3
Career and Technical Education ¹	1	1
Health and Fitness	2	2
Arts	1	2 (1 can be PPR)
General Electives	4	4
World Language (or) Personalized Pathway Requirement (PPR)		2 (Both can be PPR)
Total Credits	20	24²

Personalized Pathway Requirement are related courses that lead to a specific post high school career or educational outcome chosen by the student based on the student's interests and High School and Beyond Plan, that may include Career and Technical Education, and are intended to provide a focus for the student's learning.

¹ Or 1 Occupational Education credit, as defined in WAC 180-51-067.
² Up to 2 credits can be waived locally based on a student's unusual circumstances.

HIGH SCHOOL & BEYOND



State Testing 2014-15 School Year

This year is a major turning point in our state testing program. The Measurement of Student Progress (MSP) is now a thing of the past, and the High School Proficiency Exam (HSPE) is only available to students in the class of 2015 and 2016. With the departure of the MSP and HSPE, the state will be transitioning to the Smarter Balanced Assessment (SBA) for English Language Arts (ELA) and math. The SBAs are designed to assess how our students are performing on the Washington State Learning Standards (formerly known as the Common Core State Standards) that have been adopted by the state of Washington. Our new standards are designed to help students be prepared for college and career after high school, and the SBA will provide feedback to the district, and parents, on the progress of our students.

Why do we have new standards? Just as every profession and field of study have regular updates and changes in accepted practice (just think of how fast technology has changed over the last 5 to 10 years), the field of education must adapt its practice to meet new demands that students will encounter as they enter the

workforce or go on to further their education. While these changes may seem daunting at first, over time they will become the new normal.

The state is predicting that the scores, and passing rates, on the new tests will be much lower than the scores on the previous tests (MSP and HSPE). However, as this is a new test measuring different standards, the scores on the two tests cannot be compared. This is an entirely new test so the results must be considered as an entirely new baseline.

Below is a chart detailing what tests students in each grade will take this school year, and the reason they are taking the test. Many tests are taken to satisfy the "Federal Accountability" requirement and are used to determine if schools are making "Adequate Yearly Progress" (AYP) for student achievement. High school students also have tests that are required by the state in order to graduate. Individual schools will send out specific information about when students will be taking these tests.

GRADE	STATE ASSESSMENT	REASON
3-8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SBA ELA SBA Math MSP Science (5th and 8th grades only) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Federal Accountability
9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EOC Math Exit Exam (if enrolled in Algebra or Geometry and have not previously passed one of the EOC tests) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Graduation Requirement
10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SBA ELA* EOC Math Exit Exam (unless previously passed one of the EOC tests) EOC Biology 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Graduation Requirement Graduation Requirement Federal Accountability/Graduation Requirement
11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SBA ELA* SBA Math HSPE Reading and/or Writing (unless previously passed) EOC Math Exit Exam (unless perviously passed one of the EOC tests) EOC Biology (unless previously passed) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Federal Accountability Federal Accountability Graduation Requirement Graduation Requirement Graduation Requirement
12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HSPE Reading and/or Writing (unless previously passed) EOC Math Exit Exam (unless previously passed one of the EOC tests) EOC Biology (unless previously passed) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Graduation Requirements

* The 10th graders will be taking the same ELA test as the 11th graders, with lower passing scores for the graduation requirement. If a 10th grader meets the higher 11th grade "Career & College Ready" passing score on the exam, the student does not have to retake the assessment in 11th grade. High school students must also pass tests to be eligible to graduate. Required tests vary by expected year of graduation. The state legislature determines graduation requirements. The following table shows tests required for graduation as of the 2014 state legislative session. Requirements may change during the next legislative session.

State Testing 2014-15 School Year (cont.)

Tests Students are Required to Pass for Graduation		
Class of	Subject	Test
2014	ELA	Reading AND Writing HSPE
	Math	Choose 1: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Algebra 1/Integrated Math 1 EOC • Geometry/Integrated Math 2 EOC
2015	ELA	Reading AND Writing HSPE
	Math	Choose 1: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Algebra 1/Integrated Math 1 EOC • Geometry/Integrated Math 2 EOC • Algebra 1/Integrated Math 1 EOC exit exam • Geometry/Integrated Math 2 EOC exit exam
	Science	• Biology EOC
2016	ELA	Choose 1: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading AND Writing HSPE • Smarter Balanced ELA test (graduation cut score*)
	Math	Choose 1: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Algebra 1/Integrated Math 1 EOC • Geometry/Integrated Math 2 EOC • Algebra 1/Integrated Math 1 EOC exit exam • Geometry/Integrated Math 2 EOC exit exam • Smarter Balanced Math test (graduation cut score*)
	Science	Biology EOC
2017 & 2018	ELA	Smarter Balanced ELA test (exit exam cut score*)
	Math	Choose 1: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Algebra 1/Integrated Math 1 EOC • Geometry/Integrated Math 2 EOC • Algebra 1/Integrated Math 1 EOC exit exam • Geometry/Integrated Math 2 EOC exit exam • Smarter Balanced Math test (graduation cut score*)
	Science	Biology EOC
2019	ELA	Smarter Balanced ELA test (graduation cut score*)
	Math	Smarter Balanced Math test (graduation cut score*)
	Science	Biology EOC
*The “graduation cut score” is the score that students will need to obtain to meet the requirement for graduation. The graduation cut score will be determined by the Washington State Board of Education.		

ARLINGTON

Public Schools

315 North French Avenue
Arlington, WA 98223

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Schools

Arlington High School
18821 Crown Ridge Blvd.
Arlington, WA 98223
(360) 618-6300

Weston High School
4407 - 172nd St. NE
Arlington, WA 98223
(360) 618-6340

Haller Middle School
600 East 1st St.
Arlington, WA 98223
(360) 618-6400

Post Middle School
1220 East 5th St.
Arlington, WA 98223
(360) 618-6450

Eagle Creek Elementary
1216 East 5th St.
Arlington, WA 98223
(360) 618-6270

Kent Prairie Elementary
8110 - 207th St. NE
Arlington, WA 98223
(360) 618-6260

Pioneer Elementary
8213 Eaglefield Dr.
Arlington, WA 98223
(360) 618-6230

Presidents Elementary
505 East 3rd St.
Arlington, WA 98223
(360) 618-6240

Stillaguamish Valley School
1215 East 5th St.
Arlington, WA 98223
(360) 618-6440

E.C.E.A.P. / A.P.P.L.E. Preschool
1216 East 5th St.
Arlington, WA 98223
(360) 618-6434

Who to Contact ~Administration~

Administration Office
Website: www.asd.wednet.edu
360-618-6200

Fax: 360-618-6221
315 N. French Ave.
Arlington, WA 98223

Hours: 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Summer Hours: Mon-Thurs 7:30-4:00

Superintendent
Dr. Kristine McDuffy
(360) 618-6202

Assistant Superintendent
Ms. Diane Kirchner-Scott
(360) 618-6217

Executive Director
Human Resources
Mr. Mike Johnson
(360) 618-6212

Executive Director
Financial Services
Ms. Deborah Borgens
(360) 618-6203

Executive Director
Operations
Mr. Sid Logan
(360) 618-6238

Director
Support & Child Nutrition Services
Mr. Ed Aylesworth
(360) 618-6237

Director
Early Learning & Categorical Programs
Terri Bookey
(360) 618-6210

Director
Special Education
Connie Reiss
(360) 618-6209

Director
Technology
Mr. Mark Ehrhardt
(360) 618-6211

Public Information Coordinator
Ms. Andrea Conley
(360) 618-6217

Transportation
19124 63rd Ave. NE
Arlington, WA 98223
(360) 435-3307

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 AND COMPLIANCE COORDINATOR
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