

ARLINGTON

Public Schools

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

A publication for our residents

Fall 2014

Your Arlington Public Schools Report

Know Your Facts **Transportation Vehicle Levy**



The November 4 ballot will ask voters in the Arlington Public Schools area to approve a two-year Transportation Vehicle Levy, which would provide \$1,500,000 in 2015 and \$1,500,000 in 2016 for the purchase of new school buses.

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.

We invite you to attend one of our three levy information sessions being held at the administrative office Board room on:

Monday, October 13 at 7:30 a.m.
Wednesday, October 15 at 12:00 p.m.
Thursday, October 16 at 6:00 p.m.

2-Year Transportation Vehicle Fund Levy

	Fixed Amount	Estimated Levy Rate
2015	\$1,500,000	\$.49 per \$1,000 assessed value
2016	\$1,500,000	

SCHOOL BUS FUNDING CYCLE WITH TRANSPORTATION VEHICLE LEVY

Years 1-2:
Buy new buses using
Transportation Vehicle Levy
Dollars

Years 1-12:
Reimbursement from State
in designated fund for
future bus purchase



Year 13:
Buy new bus with saved reimbursements
from State

Why Run a Levy?

Arlington Public Schools has borrowed money to keep up with the growing demands of replacing worn out buses. This is a one-time levy.

- School buses are purchased from a Transportation Vehicle Fund (TVF). As our fleet has aged, the State's payments into our TVF have declined, reducing the funds available to replace the older buses. Transportation levies are the means that school districts use to replace aging fleets without taking money out of the classroom.
- Funds from this levy will purchase 26 new buses. The depreciation from new buses will continue to fund school bus replacement for many years.

Safety for Students

New buses meet the current state and federal safety standards.

- Safer seating with improved compartmentalization
- Additional emergency exits
- Modern braking and traction control systems
- Strengthened body construction
- Improved driver ergonomics and visibility

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.

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

Remember to mail in your ballot by
NOVEMBER 4TH!

EARLY LEARNING UPDATE

With the goal of creating the outcome of ready and successful children, the Department of Early Learning, Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) and Thrive by Five Washington have chosen key Early Learning Plan strategies on which to focus. The need for this plan stems out of several factors, including changes in family life, growing diversity, new science in brain development, research on risk factors and preparation gap.

The early learning team wants to make sure there are services and programs available for infants through third grade. An example are two programs offered within our district. One is our developmental preschool, housed at Presidents Elementary, where three- and four-year-old children are screened in areas such as cognitive skills, language skills, motor skills, vision, hearing, and behavior concerns. These children are served in their area of need in addition to being in a preschool classroom. Parents who have developmental concerns about their child can contact Cindy Prouty at 360.618.6295 to schedule a screening.

Washington State funded ECEAP/APPLE preschool is housed at Eagle Creek Elementary School. Families qualify for this pre-kindergarten program through income, age and various family stress factors. Both preschool programs help to develop the needed partnerships between families and the educational system. The state hopes to expand programs like this and our developmental preschool to better prepare children for success in school.

By the school year 2017-18, voluntary full-day kindergarten is to be implemented across the state. Currently, schools who receive state funded full-day kindergarten are required to include a family connection component, whole-child assessment and early learning collaboration. Arlington has at least one full-time kindergarten program in each of our elementary schools. This is a tuition-based option for parents, with adjustments in price for families who qualify for free or reduced meals.

Arlington Public Schools has an early learning team working on our district goals to provide program services for preschool through third grade students. One of our main goals is to strengthen our partnerships with the early learning community.

Families who have questions about early learning can contact Terri Bookey at 360.618.6210.

GOLDEN EAGLE SENIORS

Senior citizens residing in the Arlington district boundaries are welcome to join our Golden Eagles group. When you join, we will send you a card that allows you to attend school athletic and performing arts events for free or at a reduced price. This is one way we can thank our seniors for their support of schools and to encourage participation in the exciting events we offer. If you are interested in signing up, contact Andrea Conley at 360.618.6217 or by email to aconley@asd.wednet.edu.

We also hold an annual pie social where seniors can enjoy pie and coffee during a presentation by Superintendent Dr. McDuffy. Last year students came and demonstrated how they use iPads in their classrooms and the elementary school choir performed. Mark your calendar for Tuesday, March 24, 2015 at 2:00 pm for the pie social. If you are a member of our Golden Eagles group, we will send you an invitation with details.

BEING GOOD STEWARDS OF OUR FACILITIES

The past summer season provided a great opportunity for the district to accomplish some maintenance and improvement goals. We were able to do a significant amount of work without running a bond due to applying for state timber funds. New roofs were added and one portable removed at Post Middle School. At Haller Middle School, the gym roof was replaced and the sawdust collection system was moved from inside the wood shop to outside. A synthetic turf field was installed in the Arlington High John C. Larson Stadium and the district received a \$200,000 grant from the NFL to offset the cost, with another \$25,000 for stadium improvements from an ESPN grant. The Arlington High School track received minor repairs and was re-striped. We are now completing work to establish a JV Softball field. Stillaguamish Valley School received a face lift on some of their portables with new siding. Last, but not least, we are finishing waterproofing and repairing portions of the district office which was originally built in the 1930s. Ultimately, this will save the district money in heating costs and water damage repairs.

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NEW STRATEGIC TECHNOLOGY LEARNING PLAN WILL TAKE US INTO THE FUTURE

A committee comprised of our Director of Technology, a high school student, a parent, elementary/middle/high school teachers, and a school psychologist/parent worked together as the Technology Plan Development Committee. They completed a plan that will span from 2014-2017 which the Board of Directors approved at their September 8, 2014 meeting. This is a comprehensive plan with goals, an analysis of where we are now, an action plan of where we want to be, and how to measure success in achieving the goals. The district has already begun implementation of many proposed projects, including:

- Upgraded and replaced Windows labs at Arlington High School
- Upgraded and replaced two labs at Weston High School
- Purchased and installed a new lab at Eagle Creek Elementary
- Installed wiring to support new wireless system at Eagle Creek
- Installed multiple projectors in classroom ceilings
- Upgraded software and services in all building computer labs
- Upgraded the secretarial computers to Windows 7
- Upgraded the district directory system and linked to our new SharpSchool website management platform
- Purchased 15 new ChromeBook labs

To view the entire tech plan, you can go to our district website at www.asd.wednet.edu / Administration / Technology.

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

TITLE IX OFFICER AND COMPLIANCE COORDINATOR

Mr. Mike Johnson
Executive Director, Human Resources
315 N French Ave.
Arlington, WA 98223
(360) 618-6212
mike_johnson@asd.wednet.edu

SECTION 504 COORDINATOR

Ms. Diane Kirchner-Scott
Assistant Superintendent
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