



Seattle Public Schools

LEVIES INFORMATION

WINTER 2016



Seattle residents have the opportunity to renew funding for two levies — Tuesday, Feb. 9, 2016

At Seattle Public Schools, we are committed to success for all students so they can graduate from high school prepared for college, careers and life. These two levies play an important role in our ability to meet our goals. Both levy measures will replace expiring levies that voters previously approved. They are part of Seattle Public Schools' long-term levy plan and will support public education for Seattle's students.

Operations Levy (OPS) \$758.3 million (Proposition 1)

The Operations Levy represents more than 25 percent of Seattle Public Schools' general fund operating budget. It is the second largest source of operations funding after funding from the State of Washington. The levy supports educational programs and services not fully funded by the state.

The operations levy pays for a portion of teacher, instructional assistant and support staff salaries, as well as textbooks, classroom supplies, safety and building security, bilingual and special education services, professional development and training, bus transportation, and student activities such as athletics, music, arts, extra-curricular and co-curricular activities.

This levy renews the expiring Operations Levy that Seattle voters approved in February 2013.

Capital Levy — Buildings, Technology and Academics/Athletics IV (BTA IV) \$475.3 million (Proposition 2)

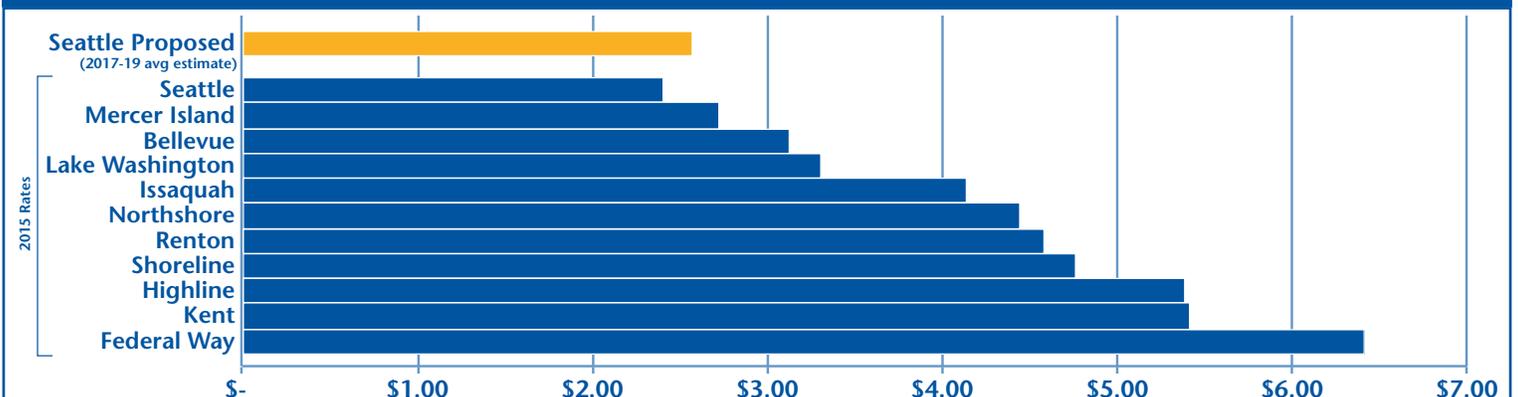
The Capital Levy supports the district's long-range plans to upgrade and renovate aging school facilities and address enrollment growth. The BTA IV Capital Levy replaces the expiring BTA III Capital Levy approved by voters in February 2010 and continues a tradition of BTA capital levies that started in 1998 (BTA I).

- Buildings projects including renovations, major maintenance, and health and safety improvements.
- Technology classroom equipment and instructional support to enhance student learning.
- Academics projects to meet the educational requirements and needs of students.
- Athletics improvements to upgrade fields.

FACT: Seattle has the lowest property tax rate of any large school district in King County.

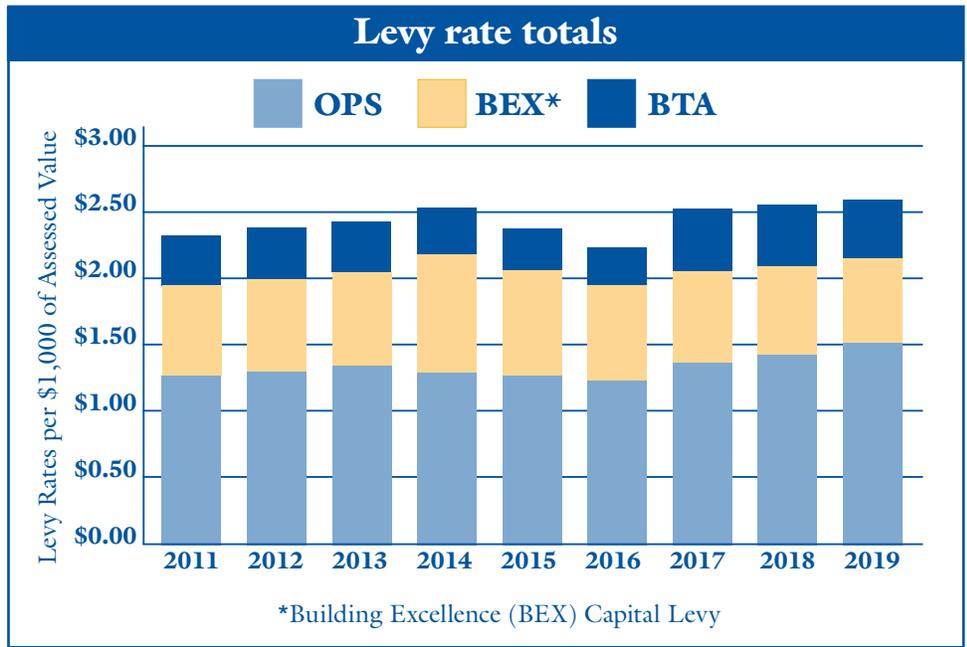
Funding our schools: How Seattle compares

SPS levy rate per \$1,000 assessed value versus
2015 levy rates of large King County school districts



FACT: The Operations Levy and Capital Levy both replace expiring levies.

The 2017-19 estimated amount a homeowner will pay in total school property taxes on a home with an assessed value of \$450,000 is \$1,156 per year. This is an increase of \$140 per year over the 2016 estimate. As property values increase and buildings are added to the tax roll, individual amounts often decrease. This is because the total dollar amount stays the same while more taxes are collected. Some homeowners may qualify for a tax exemption (see back page).



Estimated SPS property taxes Based upon \$450,000 home value				
Type of levy	2016 (Estimated)	2017 (Proposed)	2018 (Proposed)	2019 (Proposed)
Operations	\$559	\$619	\$647	\$689
BEX IV	\$329	\$312	\$299	\$287
BTA IV	\$128	\$214	\$205	\$196
Total	\$1,016	\$1,145	\$1,151	\$1,172
<i>Annual</i> change from current*	N/A	\$129	\$135	\$156
<i>Monthly</i> change from current*	N/A	\$11	\$11	\$13

*These amounts are not cumulative; they are the dollar amounts for each of the three years.

Timing of Levy Requests

Under Seattle Public Schools’ long-term levy plan, the district submits a capital levy or bond request every three years. The capital requests alternate between a major six-year capital levy (such as the Building Excellence IV levy approved in 2013) and a smaller six-year capital levy (such as the BTA IV request on the 2016 ballot, which replaces the expiring BTA III levy).

Although by state law voters can approve an operations levy for up to four years, Seattle Public Schools submits a three-year operations levy request

to coincide with the capital levies. By combining levy requests on a predictable schedule, tax rates stay level and the district saves the cost of additional elections.

Why a levy for capital improvement instead of a bond?

A capital levy is collected over a six-year period in even increments of 1/6th each year. This is a less costly method of paying for capital construction projects because no interest payment to investors is required.

Operations Levy: Proposition 1

At Seattle Public Schools, our goal is to ensure that every student graduates high school prepared for college, careers and life. The \$758.3 million Operations Levy renewal will fund important educational programs and services that are not fully funded by the state. Although subject to the Board of Directors' discretion as part of the annual budget process, past operations levies have supported:

- Teachers and instructional assistants who work with students every day to provide instruction that will lead to academic growth and success.
- Bilingual and Special Education services to support the diverse needs of our students.
- Textbooks and classroom supplies that support teaching and learning.
- Safety, building security, transportation and other operations necessary to meeting student needs.
- Student activities such as athletics, music, drama and art that are outside of the regular school day.



FACT: The money to operate Seattle Public Schools comes from multiple sources. The largest share (more than 55 percent) is provided by the state, and the second largest share comes from the Operations Levy (just over 25 percent).

2015-16 Operating Budget

Operating resources by source		
State	\$416.8 M	55%
Federal	\$64.3 M	9%
Operations Levy	\$189.6 M	25%
Local Non-Tax	\$26.8 M	4%
Other	\$55.5 M	7%
Total	\$753.1 M	100%



Capital Levy: Proposition 2

BUILDINGS, TECHNOLOGY AND ACADEMICS IV

The six-year, \$475.3 million Buildings, Technology and Academics IV (BTA IV) Capital Levy will replace the expiring Buildings Technology and Academics III (BTA III) Capital Levy approved by Seattle Voters in 2010. BTA IV would improve schools in every region of the city. There are three major components to BTA IV: Buildings (\$335.4 million), Technology (\$104.7 million) and Academics (\$35.2 million).

BUILDINGS

\$335.4 MILLION*

The buildings component includes projects that provide more capacity to address student enrollment growth, provide safety and security improvements, and maintain the physical integrity of the district's school buildings.

Adding Capacity: \$87.8 million

Renovate and open three vacant school buildings as elementary schools to increase capacity by 1,500 seats.

E.C. Hughes, Magnolia, Webster

Build an addition at one school to increase capacity by 500 seats.

Ingraham

Earthquake Safety Improvements: \$13 million

Improve earthquake safety at two buildings to protect students, teachers and staff, and the integrity of the buildings.

Bagley, Lincoln

Note: Part of the remodel costs for Bagley and Lincoln are included in the Building Excellence IV (BEX IV) Capital Levy; both schools will receive supplemental funds from the BTA IV Capital Levy to provide a more comprehensive remodel.

Fire Suppression/Sprinklers: \$3.3 million

Install fire suppression/sprinklers life safety systems.

Bagley, North Queen Anne, Lincoln

Note: As part of their renovation, four buildings will receive improvements to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Bagley, Lincoln, Magnolia, Webster.

Fire Alarm System Improvements: \$1.8 million

Bagley, John Muir, Meany, Lincoln

Integrated Security Cameras: \$3 million

Districtwide

Security Improvements — Buildings (door and window alarms): \$986,000

Dearborn Park, John Muir, Whitworth (Orca K-8), Aki Kurose, Rainier Beach

Intercom System Replacements: \$1.4 million

Bagley, John Muir, Meany, Lincoln

Roof Replacement/Seismic Diaphragm Upgrades: \$17.2 million

Replace all or portions of roofs and make roof improvements that increase earthquake safety to protect students, staff and the integrity of the buildings at six schools.

Dearborn Park, Ballard, Garfield, Ingraham, Lincoln, West Seattle HS

Exterior Renovations/Improvements: \$15.2 million

Replace exterior windows at three buildings, replace exterior doors at 10 buildings and upgrade exterior walls at four buildings to improve energy efficiency and enhance building comfort for students and staff.

Windows: *Bagley, North Queen Anne, Franklin*

Doors: *Bagley, Graham Hill, Lowell, North Queen Anne, Sanislo, Wedgwood, Whitworth (Orca K-8), Franklin, Garfield, Lincoln*

Exteriors: *Gatewood, Eckstein, Ballard, Franklin*

Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC) Systems: \$26.2 million

Bagley, Gatewood, Lincoln

Electrical Improvements: \$25.3 million

Bagley, North Queen Anne, Franklin, Lincoln

Plumbing Improvements: \$6.9 million

Bagley, Lincoln

Districtwide Support Projects: \$6.6 million

Fund routine replacement of equipment for food service, lunchrooms, maintenance, grounds and security, and BEX IV Capital Levy planning and election costs for the 2019 special election.

Property Acquisition: \$15 million

Budget funds to acquire additional property to meet future capacity and other needs if appropriate opportunities come on the market. Having this budget available reduces the lead-time for the district to acquire property, and it reduces the need to take on debt to finance property additions.

Major Preventive Maintenance: \$18 million

Continue preventive maintenance program with predictable painting schedules, and predictable inspection and servicing of building systems.

Capital Eligible Program Loan Repayment: \$3.6 million

Districtwide

Capital and Technology Financing Obligations Principal Payments: \$8.1 million

* The total Buildings amount includes \$82 million for cost escalation, staffing, and other program-related costs over the six-year life of the levy.

**TECHNOLOGY
\$104.7 MILLION**

Making strategic investments in technology supports learning and teaching in the classroom; delivers services to students, teachers, staff and families; and improves efficiency in business processes.

Student Learning: \$29.3 million

Upgrade and expand classroom/student technology equipment and services, mobile and stationary computer labs, and increase on-site technical support services for schools and student technology.

Instructional Support and Delivery: \$27.2 million

Modernize and expand classroom audio-visual presentation systems and faculty workstations, modernize network access, and provide state-of-the-art instructional services including online learning environments to help prepare students for life in the 21st century.

Physical Safety and Security: \$8.4 million

Modernize school safety and security systems including camera, threat alert, door access and communication services. Modernize the district's telecommunications system.

Information/Data Security and Privacy: \$3.5 million

Continue operations and improvements to the district's data security systems for the protection of personal (student and staff) sensitive and confidential information; implementation/expansion of critical data protection and recovery systems (disaster recovery, anti-virus, redundancy); and development of the district's first comprehensive business continuity plan.

School and Instructional Support: \$30 million

Continue to improve and enhance districtwide student and business systems, which support all schools and central offices with services such as payroll, purchasing, human resources, finances, budgeting, transportation, health, nutrition, Special Education, scheduling and attendance.

Communication transparency and outreach: \$6.3 million

Improve communication with families and community to increase transparency and outreach using website, parent contact, and other technology communication and collaboration tools.

ACADEMICS/ATHLETICS

\$35.2 MILLION

BTA IV academics projects will allow the district to make improvements to the way student services are delivered and enhance the learning environment. Field and lighting projects are included in recognition that athletics programs improve student participation and increase options for learning.

Special Education Program Modifications: \$4.8 million

Make building modifications to support better delivery of Special Education services closer to home.

Districtwide

Core 24 Graduation Requirements: \$5 million

Add science and computer labs at high schools as needed to support state CORE 24 graduation requirements.

High schools

Student Assessment System Licenses: \$3.5 million

Maintain licenses to use student assessment systems that provide information on student progress and support teachers in differentiating instruction for each student.

Districtwide

Program Placement: \$8.3 million

Support changes to buildings and portables as needed to meet changing needs in placement of programs around the district. Pay for capital-eligible new program and curriculum materials.

Districtwide

Athletic Field Improvements and Exterior Lights: \$13.6 million

Upgrade athletic fields at seven locations and install energy-efficient lighting at two fields. Maintain defibrillators.

Fields: *Jane Addams, Chief Sealth, Robert Eagle Staff, Garfield, Ingraham, Nathan Hale, Lower Woodland Park**

Lighting: *Robert Eagle Staff, Lower Woodland Park**
AED defibrillator battery replacement.

**Lower Woodland improvements will be in partnership with Seattle Parks and Recreation Department*



STATUS OF CURRENT LEVY PROJECTS

Work funded by the expiring six-year Buildings, Technology and Academics/Athletics III (BTA III) Capital Levy, approved by Seattle voters in 2010, is nearly complete, with all projects on time and on budget and with a current \$2 million underspend. This \$270 million capital levy paid for projects throughout the district, including renovations to open schools to meet enrollment growth, small renovations, major maintenance and improvement projects, technology improvements, and academics and athletics projects.

The six-year Building Excellence IV (BEX IV) Capital Levy, approved by Seattle voters in 2013, continues the district's work to construct, replace, renovate, modernize and build additions for aging district buildings; to address enrollment growth, earthquake and safety issues, and infrastructure upgrades; and to continue major preventive maintenance and technology systems improvements. BEX IV projects include 17 major buildings projects that include construction of new schools, new replacement schools and renovation/modernization of, and additions to, existing buildings. All projects are currently on-schedule and within budget. Three replacement schools (Arbor Heights and Genesee Hill elementaries and Pinehurst to house Hazel Wolf K-8), one newly constructed school (Thornton Creek Elementary) and one modernized school (T.T. Minor to house Seattle World School) are opening in fall 2016.

Once all projects in BEX IV, BTA III and BTA IV are completed, the backlog of work for Building Maintenance and Repair (BMAR) will have been reduced from \$508 million in 2014 to \$247 million in 2022.

District Highlights

Student Enrollment 2015-16

Elementary (K-5)	27,789
Middle School (6-8)	10,803
High School (9-12)	13,732
Total	52,324

Students by Ethnicity

African American/Black	16.4%
American Indian	0.6%
Asian	15.1%
Hispanic/Latino	12.4%
Multiracial	9.2%
Pacific Islander	0.5%
White	45.6%

Student Services

37.3 percent qualify for free/reduced price meals

12.5 percent are enrolled in Special Education

11.4 percent are eligible for bilingual services



STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

Seattle Public Schools is **committed** to ensuring that **all** students graduate prepared for **college, career and life**.

- Enrollment growth continues with more than 52,000 students this year.
- Student test scores are above the state average in English language arts and math.
- Twenty-three schools earned Washington Achievement Awards, which recognize the state's top performing schools.
- The State of Washington has named 12 schools as Schools of Distinction.
- English Language Learner (ELL) services have expanded from 65 to 98 schools and serve more than 135 languages/dialects.
- Two-thirds of seniors take and pass a college-level course during high school.
- Half of all students in grade 8 complete Algebra by eighth grade.
- More ninth graders are staying on track to graduate — an increase of 7 percent.

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February 9: School Levy Information

Voter Registration

For information on how to register to vote, visit the King County Elections website at www.kingcounty.gov/elections/registration.aspx or call 206-296-8683. The deadline for mail or online new registrations and voter registration changes, such as an address change, must be submitted by Jan. 11, 2016, to qualify for voting on the Feb. 9 election. In-person new voter registrations may be made until Feb. 1, 2016, to vote in the Feb. 9 election.

If you have questions about your voter registration or to request a ballot or a replacement ballot, contact the King County Elections Office at elections@kingcounty.gov.

Senior and disabled citizen tax exemptions

If your annual income does not exceed \$35,000 or you own and reside in your home, including mobile homes, you may be entitled to a property tax reduction. You must be at least 61 years of age or, if under 61 years,

retired because of a disability or had a spouse who had an exemption at the time of death. Property taxes may be deferred under certain conditions. For details, visit bit.ly/King-County-Seniors or call 206-296-3920.

Vote by mail

The Feb. 9, 2016, election will be an all-mail election. Registered voters will receive their ballots through the U.S. Postal Service in January. To vote, follow the directions on the ballot and return it by mail or by using a King County ballot drop box. All ballots must be postmarked by Feb. 9, 2016, to be counted.

Levy validations

Under state law, the levies will be approved if the measure receives a simple majority (50 percent plus 1) of "yes" votes by all voters who return valid ballots postmarked by Feb. 9, 2016.

This publication is intended to provide factual information related to the Feb. 9, 2016, Seattle Public Schools Operations and Capital levies election and was prepared by district staff.

Student photos © Susie Fitzhugh