

EVERY STUDENT. EVERY DAY.

One of many vital functions that the Educational Programs & Operations (EP&O) Levy helps fund is access to school counselors and Swedish mental health counselors – both of which are critical for our students as they continue to navigate school and life during the pandemic.

“Many students’ social, emotional, and mental well-being has been impacted by the pandemic,” said Pam Ridenour, Director of Student Interventions for the district. “The EP&O Levy is essential in maintaining this support for all students in our district. Our students access these services daily through a school counselor, Swedish mental health counselor, Positive Behavior Social Emotional coach, or a school nurse.”

There is a gap between the state funds that are allocated for student services and academic programs and what the district provides to all Issaquah School District students. Local levy dollars fill that gap. The EP&O Levy is up for renewal in Prop. 1 on the April 26 Special Election Ballot. The current EP&O Levy, which expires

this year, provides 13 contracted mental health counselors through Swedish Medical Center. It also supports school counselor positions throughout the district, and provides more than \$3 million for positive behavior coaches. While the state funds 3.5 nurses for our nearly 20,000 students at 27 schools, local levy dollars enable the district to employ 26 nurses, ensuring that each school has a dedicated registered nurse or licensed practical nurse on staff.

“The Issaquah School District has worked hard to strategically align resources to assure that we are serving all students, while providing additional support for those who need it, and crisis response for those who need immediate services,” Ridenour said. “I fear that without this funding, we will see essential mental health services for our students being removed. In normal times, this would be impactful, but considering the extreme needs that exist in our community, it would be detrimental to the well-being of our students.”

The district’s Swedish School-Based Mental Health Counselors are contracted through Swedish Hospital

and support the schools in our district, while teaming closely with our school counselors. They provide brief therapeutic counseling and referrals to outside resources when a student or family needs long-term services or crisis care.

For more information on the mental health and student service supports the renewal EP&O Levy provides, as well as information on our renewal Capital Levy and Transportation Levy, please scan the QR code.



FOCUS ON ISSAQUAH SCHOOLS

Educational levies supporting equal access to education for ALL students in the Issaquah School District.

PROP 1: RENEWAL EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS & OPERATIONS (EP&O) LEVY

15.6%

State and Federal Funding

Local Funding
Filling the gaps



Safety and Security



Mental Health Support



Nurses



Special Education

The EP&O Replacement Levy represents 15.6% of the district’s revenue. It will continue funding for student services, academic programs and support services. These include day-to-day school operations not fully funded by the state, such as safety and security, special education, nurses, school counselors, mental health support and more.

Read more about the EP&O Levy on our website by scanning the QR code.



FOCUS

ON ISSAQUAH SCHOOLS



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Issaquah, WA 98029
www.isd411.org

STAY CONNECTED

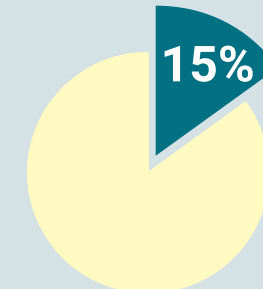


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PROP 2: RENEWAL CAPITAL (TECHNOLOGY AND CONSTRUCTION) LEVY

Student and Classroom Technology



85% maintains current technology services
15% provides critical enhancements

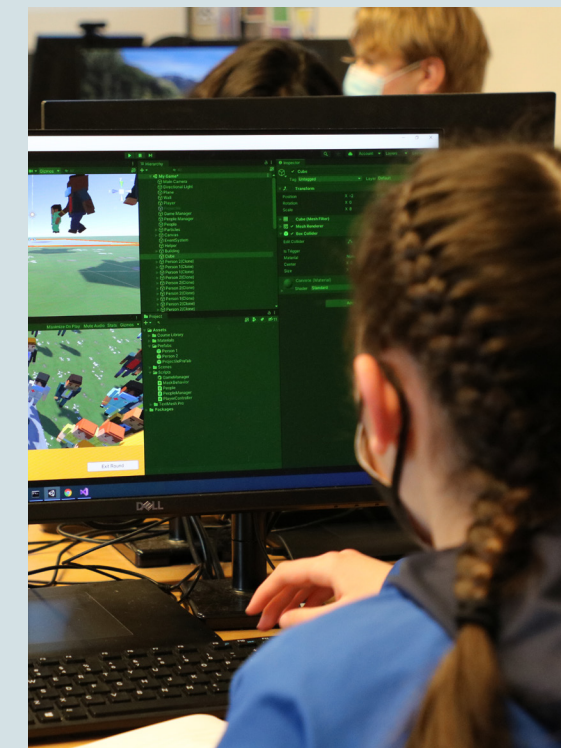
Maintaining our Buildings,
Ensuring Room to Learn

\$53.8M

for:
Safety Repairs
Security Updates
High School #4

The Capital Replacement Levy includes technology and building updates. These projects maintain safety in buildings throughout our district (HVAC, roof repairs and more). This measure also would help complete the construction of High School #4, which will relieve crowding at our existing comprehensive high schools.

Read more about the Capital Levy on our website by scanning the QR code.



IMPORTANT ELECTION DATES

APRIL 6

Ballots mailed to voters

APRIL 18

Online or mail-in voter registration due*

*Voters may register to vote in person up until election day



APRIL 26

ELECTION DAY

Ballots must be postmarked or returned to a ballot drop box by 8 p.m. No stamps are needed.

教育征收額支持伊薩夸學區所有學生均等享有教育。

掃描這個二維碼，獲得更多信息。



이사과학구의 모든 학생이 평등한 교육을 받을 수 있도록 지원하는 교육 부담금.

자세한 내용을 보려면 이 QR 코드를 스캔하세요.



Impuestos educativos para apoyar el acceso igualitario a la educación para TODOS los estudiantes en el Distrito Escolar de Issaquah.

Escanee este código QR para obtener más información.



COMBINED LEVY PROPOSALS

If approved, the estimated combined tax rate for our measures from 2023-2026 is projected to be \$3.56 per \$1,000 assessed property value.

Year	EP&O Levy	Cost/\$1,000 Assessed Value (est.)	Tech & Capital Levy	Cost/\$1,000 Assessed Value (est.)
2023	\$61,000,000	\$1.43	\$31,472,000	0.73
2024	\$64,000,000	\$1.43	\$35,957,000	0.81
2025	\$67,000,000	\$1.42	\$36,561,000	0.78
2026	\$70,000,000	\$1.42	\$37,320,000	0.75
Transportation (Bus) Levy		2023	\$3,000,000	0.07

PROP 3: TRANSPORTATION (SCHOOL BUS) LEVY

The 1-year measure would pay to purchase 64 buses when combined with state reimbursement dollars. This keeps our buses current, up to date with state safety standards, and maximizes bus efficiency to reduce transportation costs.



Read more about the Transportation Levy on our website by scanning the QR code.

1.4 million miles driven each school year



7,500 students transported each morning and afternoon



The total combined tax rate, including the three measures above, is projected to be \$3.56 per \$1,000 of assessed property value. The average rate from 2021-2022 for the previous measures was \$3.51 per \$1,000 of assessed property value. All local education levy dollars stay in our district to support Issaquah School District students, staff and schools.

2016 BOND PROJECTS COME TO FRUITION INCLUDING COUGAR MOUNTAIN MIDDLE SCHOOL, HIGH SCHOOL 4 ON THE HORIZON



Cougar Mountain Middle School students browse the highly requested and anticipated graphic novel section in their new library.

On a day eagerly anticipated by students, staff and families alike, the beautiful new Cougar Mountain Middle School opened on March 1. For the first time, the student body of about 640 Falcons arrived at the campus in the Talus neighborhood.

Cougar Mountain is the third new school to open, thanks to the 2016 bond measure. Major projects funded by the bond that are complete or nearly complete include:

- Construction of Cedar Trails Elementary, which opened in September.
- Complete rebuild of Pine Lake Middle School.
- Upgrades and updates to Beaver Lake Middle School.
- Critical expansion and modernization of six elementary schools: Clark, Cougar Ridge, Discovery, Endeavour, Maple Hills and Sunset.
- Purchase of 70 acres of land providing five school sites.
- Safety and security measures throughout the district such as building secured entries, installing a key card access system and additional security cameras.
- Renovation of the Holly Street building into an early learning center.

One project, the construction of a fourth comprehensive high school, has been significantly delayed due to changes in city permitting regarding parking and road requirements as well as pandemic-related challenges. Enrollment at the high school level still demonstrates a need for the fourth high school, in order to help reduce the number of students at other high schools in the district, and also to increase student access to classes, services,

programs and activities.

While those delays have resulted in increased costs due to inflation, they have also offered the district the opportunity to refine plans, including increasing the green space/buffer zone at the perimeter of the property. The new high school will eventually share a site with the district's 17th elementary school, although that project is temporarily on hold.

COUGAR MOUNTAIN MIDDLE SCHOOL

At Cougar Mountain on opening day, sixth-grader Eva O. said "I'm feeling really excited!" as she helped greet fellow students. Eva and sixth-grader Aditya P. took turns holding a directional sign for their peers, and stood ready to answer questions.

"Excited" was the emotion that most students and staff shared when asked what they were feeling.

As buses and families dropped students off at the new building, the middle schoolers made their way to the commons. "Good morning and welcome to our brand-new school!" teacher Holly Stipe called out on



Digital rendering of High School 4 and Elementary 17 site.

the microphone. Any student who needed a fresh copy of their schedule picked one up, and then the school was dismissed by grade level to their first class.

Small touches throughout the building helped welcome students and staff, from blue and gold paper birds flocking the halls, to flowers in the office and the library, to a large banner that the neighboring community of Timber Ridge provided welcoming students and staff. At the door to one classroom, the words on a small rug read "Yay! You're here!"

These gestures are just one part of a larger plan to help create a sense of community and invite students to feel at home in their new building. Construction delays made it necessary for the school to begin its year in a borrowed building on the Ringdall Junior High campus in Newport Hills.

"I am thrilled for our students, staff and families that we are now in our new beautiful building! I'm excited to fully use our amazing and unique spaces and resources to support student learning, creativity and community," Principal Erin McKee said, noting that she can't wait for families and community members to have a chance to see the campus in person in late spring.

To read more about the first day experience of CMMS students, scan the QR code at the end of this article.

HIGH SCHOOL 4

The district has a history of green initiatives, efforts and projects, and building a new school tucked into the forest on the plateau will be a wonderful way to continue that story of sustainability. Those pieces range from the work that student Green Teams do, to partnering with Puget Sound Energy on a solar power project at Pine Lake Middle School to installing a charging station for electric vehicles to

reviewing districtwide data to increase efficiency in use of electricity, gas, water solid waste, recycling, fuel and stormwater. In March of 2021, the district moved to purchasing 100 percent green electricity through a PSE program called Green Direct for wind and solar power. The ISD is also applying for a grant that could award the district between one and three electric school buses.

"Our future schools, High School #4 and Elementary #17, are sites that take advantage of the natural beauty of our region."

"Our future schools, High School #4 and Elementary #17, are sites that take advantage of the natural beauty of our region," Superintendent Ron Thieles said.

"I am impressed with the design team, architects and engineers in creating a parklike setting for these school sites that exceeds environmental standards through enhanced stormwater treatment in underground vaults and filters, through the use of a green retaining wall by compacting the improvements toward the center of the property to create larger buffers around the perimeter of the site, and by increasing the number of trees and amount of vegetation in our landscaping."

To read more about the future of High School 4, including historical information about the overall process prior to construction, cost of the project, how sustainability has been woven into the plans for this build and information on the renewal Capital Levy on the April 26 ballot, please scan the QR code to visit our website.



EQUITY DEPARTMENT WORK SERVES TO EMPOWER STUDENTS AND FAMILIES, CREATE SENSE OF BELONGING

A sense of worth and belonging greatly enhances a student's ability to learn. Helping to create that feeling is central to what teachers, staff members and administrators do every day throughout our schools – and it's at the heart of the district's equity work. What that looks like varies from building to building and by grade level, but in some cases, it can be as simple as providing space.

A group of students whose religion requires prayer at certain times of the day recently asked Pine Lake Middle School Principal Michelle Caponigro if they could use a room somewhere at school to pray together. It's not an unheard-of request, but the result was unusual – in a good way, Caponigro said. "What we have seen as the fruit of that opportunity for those students is that they are so empowered by the group. They sit together at lunch, and I often hear them sharing their opinions and their thoughts in a way that I don't know they otherwise would. ... I think they felt like we could hear them, and we could get the barrier out of the way for them to access their culture."

"Equity enables us to remove barriers so that all kids can feel connected to school," Caponigro added. "Those barriers are different for all students. We have to creatively figure out what those are and get those out of the way of learning."

Executive Director of Equity Alaina Sivadasan said when she heard the story about the students at Pine Lake Middle School, it gave her goose bumps. "Their overall language about being at school is now – 'We belong.' I thought that was so powerful," Sivadasan said. "It sends this message to them that we acknowledge and honor that this is something that is a part of who you are, and we're going to make the space for you to be able to do that."

To continue reading about the equity work being done in the ISD, including recent success stories and how this program is funded by the Educational Programs and Operations Levy, please scan the QR code.



ISSAQUAH SCHOOLS FOUNDATION —

Join Us Online.

YOU Make a Difference!

We are excited to announce that the Issaquah Schools Foundation Nourish Every Mind fundraising event is an **online, interactive** event celebrated throughout the entire month of May!

Each week in May, Nourish Every Mind will dedicate a special focus on our students' needs:

- Week 1: Academic Support**
- Week 2: Mental Health & Social Emotional Support**
- Week 3: Equitable Access to Educational & Community Resources**
- Week 4: Our Vision Forward — Making a Positive Impact!**

We want to give you the opportunity to share your voice, share your student's voice, and help us re-imagine how we support **YOUR** child.

With our month-long event you have the flexibility to engage at your own pace, in your own time, with any of our weekly offerings:

Quick Q&As, reader polls, short student videos, guest speakers, and more!

We can't wait to hear what YOU have to say! To see our calendar of events, visit www.isfdn.org/nourish-every-mind/

For 35 years strong we've been supporting district students where help is needed most, and YOU have helped to make this possible. The Foundation remains committed to driving resources to help students reach the promise of their potential. Learn more about ALL the areas we support and the programs available to help your child at www.isfdn.org.

Thank you!

2016 BOND TIMELINE: EXPANSIONS, REMODELS, NEW BUILDS



Visit our Construction website



COUGAR RIDGE ELEMENTARY EXPANSION/MODERNIZATION
August 2017-Fall 2018



DISCOVERY ELEMENTARY EXPANSION/MODERNIZATION
September 2018-Fall 2019



HIGH SCHOOL 4/ELEMENTARY 17 PLANNING
Spring 2018-Present**



CEDAR TRAILS ELEMENTARY NEW BUILD
April 2020-September 2021*



BEAVER LAKE MIDDLE SCHOOL UPDATES
May 2021-December 2021*

2017

2018

2019

2020

2021

2022



PINE LAKE MIDDLE SCHOOL REBUILD
May 2017-Fall 2018



ENDEAVOUR ELEMENTARY EXPANSION/MODERNIZATION
September 2018-Fall 2019



CENTRAL ADMIN BUILDING
November 2018-Fall 2019



COUGAR MOUNTAIN MIDDLE SCHOOL NEW BUILD
April 2020-March 2022*



MAPLE HILLS ELEMENTARY EXPANSION/MODERNIZATION
March 2021-December 2021*

*Project is defined as substantially complete.
**Work towards permitting, design, SEPA, site sustainability, etc. has been in progress for High School 4 and Elementary 17 for some time. Should the Capital Levy pass in April 2022, High School 4 is estimated to be complete in September 2024.