



# MEAD MATTERS

WINTER 2024

EACH STUDENT  
FUTURE READY

FOSTER BELONGING  
INSTILL PURPOSE  
CULTIVATE CURIOSITY

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## BREAKING NEW GROUND IN ENERGY EFFICIENCY

In the world of building and facility maintenance, the word “efficiency” is used a lot, sometimes tied to saving money or energy and sometimes tied to state law. For the Mead School District’s Maintenance Department and its director Travis Bown, a supreme responsibility also comes with it: the responsibility to be great stewards of district funds, the responsibility to the safety and security of the district’s buildings, and the responsibility to provide a comfortable learning environment where students and teachers can thrive.

In 2019, Washington state enacted House Bill 1257, known as the Clean Buildings bill, which established the Clean Building Performance Standard and Energy Use Intensity targets (EUI). At that time, one of Mead’s oldest buildings, Evergreen Elementary (1961) was already slated for the new boilers and pumps pictured above, and had an EUI of 74 with a target of 50. With the boiler and pump replacement also came a new building automation system, which controls production of heat or air conditioning throughout the building. The installation brought the score down to 64, but Bown then put his expertise to work. He began strategizing with MSD’s HVAC Team and the contractor’s building automation engineer to rewrite code strategies based on thermal gain and loss, occupancy schedules, sunlight effects on different parts of the building, outside air temperatures and water temperatures in the boilers and chillers to rethink the way that warm and cool air is dispersed in the building. Bown also continually worked with teachers to get feedback on what they were feeling in their classrooms, trained them on maximizing comfort and gave them five degrees of freedom on their thermostats. The result was a massive decrease to an EUI score of 54, and after a few more code tweaks, Evergreen was operating with an EUI of 49.8 within just a few months.

The rapid decrease in the building’s EUI not only created a much more efficient use of energy, but it caught the attention of a number of state and national industry experts and agencies. These agencies have begun case studies and surveys on the efficiency of the building, how the new building automation strategies impacted the EUI so quickly and how the comfort is helping learning and teaching.

Bown and his team are always looking for efficiencies that can result in not only savings in energy and money, but can have a positive impact on the school district. Additional projects have included right-sizing dumpsters based on usage, production of their own wintertime salt solution for sidewalks and parking lots, lighting upgrades to LEDs in a number of buildings and additional work with Avista Utilities to identify cost and energy savings.

VISIT [WWW.MEAD354.ORG](http://WWW.MEAD354.ORG) OR THE MEAD SCHOOL DISTRICT FACEBOOK  
PAGE FOR THE LATEST NEWS FROM AROUND THE DISTRICT



# ALL-STATE MUSICIANS

Outstanding high school music students from across Washington received top honors by being selected to participate in the WMEA High School All-State Honor Ensembles in Yakima on February 15-17, 2024. These students were chosen out of a group of nearly 1,900 applicants and were selected through auditions.



**MSMS Students (L to R in photo)**  
Dylan Jarvis, Concert Band-French Horn  
Sawyer Peterson, Jazz Band-Trombone  
Sam Schaefer, Philharmonic Winds-Tuba  
Kelsey Swenland, Chamber Orchestra-French Horn



**MHS Students (L to R in photo)**  
Sophia Ji, Philharmonic Strings-Violin  
William Farley, Philharmonic Strings-Violin  
Sarah Lines, Philharmonic Strings-Violin  
Savithri Bhat, Philharmonic Strings-Viola



**MHS Students (L to R in photo)**  
Bruce Redden, Concert Band-Tuba  
Isaac Ojennus, Concert Band-Oboe  
Ashley Conner, Concert Band-Bassoon

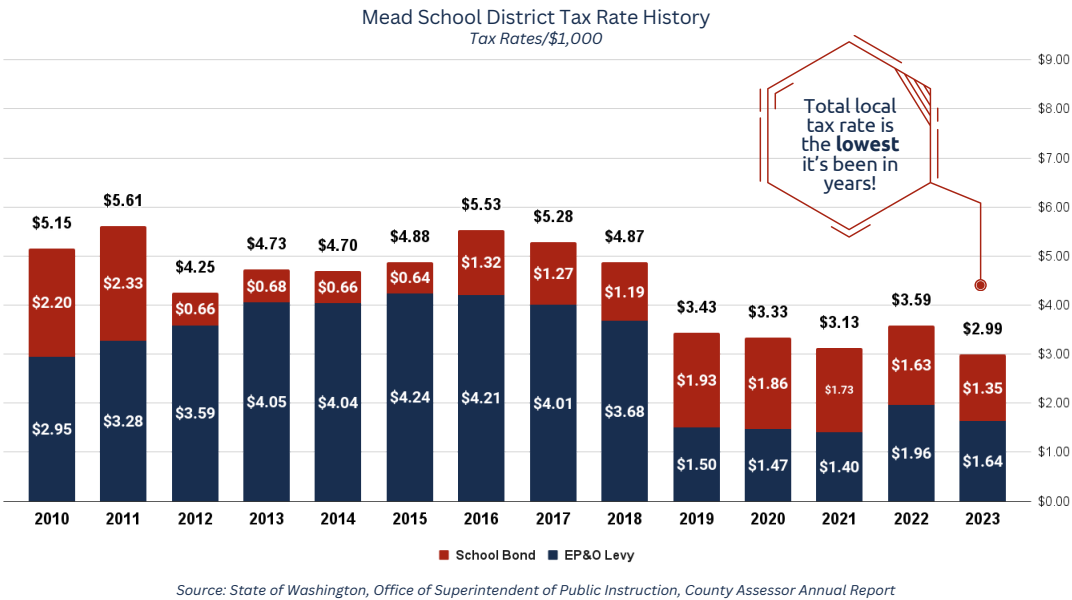
# LEVY BASICS AND TAX INFO

Levies provide local funding that bridges the gap between what the state and federal governments pay and the *actual* costs of operating our schools at the level that our community wants and expects. Levies support essential programs, staff and services and make up about 13.6% of the district's total operating revenue.

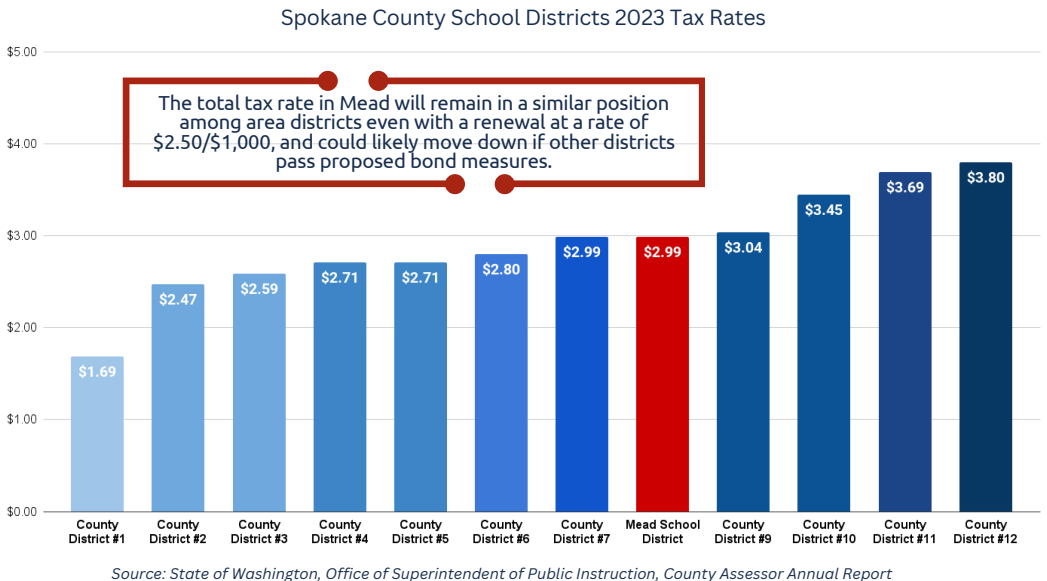
The replacement levy supports Mead's commitment to learning and teaching, focuses on greater educational opportunity for all and ensures ongoing funding for essential services and valued extra-curricular and co-curricular programs.

Levies must be approved by local voters and are based on local property values. Property owners are taxed by a set amount for each \$1,000 of their assessed value. Once a levy is approved, the total amount collected by the school district cannot be increased even if local property values increase. When community property values increase, the tax rate (amount paid per \$1,000 of AV) decreases.

On the February 2024 ballot, Mead School District voters will be asked to vote on a three-year replacement levy for educational programs and operations at an estimated tax rate of \$2.50 per \$1,000 of assessed value.



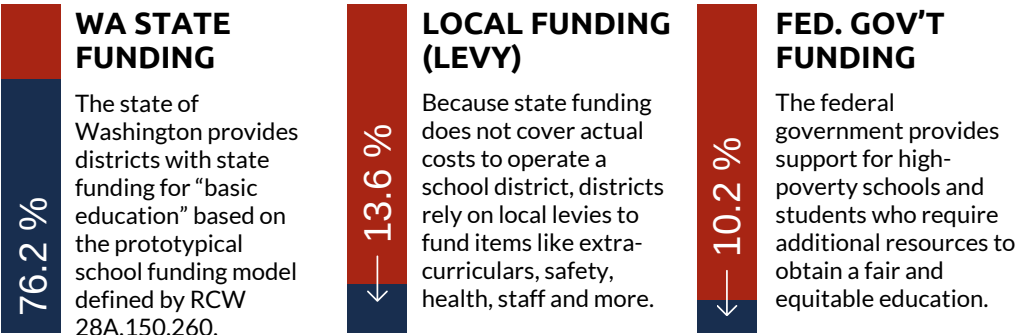
## How does Mead compare *currently* in Spokane County?





# WHERE DOES OUR MONEY COME FROM?

More than 99.9% of the Mead School District's budget comes from three main sources: local, state and federal. Local dollars come from levies funded by taxpayers in the district. State dollars are primarily apportioned to districts based on the state's prototypical funding model. Federal dollars are grants restricted to a specific purpose.



# WHAT IS THE COST TO THE TAXPAYER?

## WHAT AM I, AS A PROPERTY OWNER, PAYING CURRENTLY THROUGH 2024?

\$500,000 HOME\*  
\$1.68 LEVY + \$1.32 BOND  
\$3.00 PER \$1,000  
= \$1,500 PER YEAR

## WHAT WILL I PAY FROM 2025-27 IF THE LEVY IS APPROVED?

\$500,000 HOME\*  
\$2.50 LEVY + \$1.15 BOND  
\$3.65 PER \$1,000  
= \$1,825 PER YEAR

DIFFERENCE OF \$325  
OR \$27.09/MONTH

Go to [mead354.org/tax](http://mead354.org/tax)  
to estimate your own levy taxes!

## SO, WHAT CHANGES IF LEVY IS APPROVED?

CURRENT \$1.68 EP&O LEVY EXPIRES AFTER 2024	THREE-YEAR LEVY BEGINS IN 2025 AT \$2.50 TAX RATE	TOTAL TAX RATE, INCLUDING EXISTING BOND AND LEVY WOULD BE \$3.65 IN 2025
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Tax rates reflected in this example are the total tax rate, which includes both the existing bond and estimated levy. \* Median sold home price in Mead according to Realtor.com in September 2023.

# WHY THE INCREASE?

This ballot measure asks for an increase to \$2.50 per \$1,000\* of assessed property value. Mead School District made \$10 million in cuts over the past 4 years, while also increasing efficiency and tightening budgets. In this levy renewal, the district seeks to maintain valued programs and services, while also increasing investments in two areas: safety & security and updates to curriculum in the areas of science, mathematics, and social studies.

School levies also activate equalization dollars from the state called Local Effort Assistance (LEA). When a levy is passed, the state provides additional funding to enhance student access to educational enrichments. LEA funding formulas changed with the McCleary legislation in 2018, meaning many districts - including Mead - will receive significantly less in LEA.

Along with key investments in safety and curriculum, an increase would offset the factors that have led to cuts, including: a reduction in LEA, elimination of the state's regionalization dollars, increase in day-to-day operational costs (i.e. food, fuel, insurance, utilities) opening four new facilities and a drop in student enrollment.

\* Print version incorrectly stated "\$100,000"

# HOLIDAY CONCERTS GALORE

During the first two weeks of December, students from around the district took part in 35 holiday concerts, much to the delight of parents, grandparents, siblings, friends and community members.



MEAD MATTERS  
Mead School District #354  
2323 E. Farwell Rd.  
Mead, WA 99021

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**Questions or Concerns? Call (509) 465-6000**

The Mead School District does not discriminate in any programs or activities on the basis of sex, race, creed, religion, color, national origin, age, veteran or military status, sexual orientation, gender expression or identity, disability, or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. Grievances or concerns should be directed to: Josh Westermann, Director of Student and Family Services – 509-465-6008, 2323 E Farwell Rd, Mead, WA 99021 or [josh.westermann@mead354.org](mailto:josh.westermann@mead354.org).

ECR WSS  
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## BOARD WELCOMES TWO NEW MEMBERS

At the Dec. 11 Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors, Alan Nolan (*below, top*) and Jennifer Killman (*below, bottom*) were sworn in as new board members, while Michael Cannon began his second term. Director Cannon was chosen as the Board's President and BrieAnne Gray was chosen as Vice President in the annual reorganization of the board.



## LETTER FROM THE SCHOOL BOARD PRESIDENT

Since becoming a school board member four years ago, I've had the opportunity to see more of our district from many different levels. I've been able to see areas for growth and change, but also I see, more than ever, the tremendous value that the district provides to students and families. As you probably know, our district budget is funded at the Federal, State and Local levels. As a huge proponent of local control, influence and decision-making, I can tell you that the local portion of our funding provides essential programs, services and staff identified through community feedback. As a board member, I try to connect as much as possible with our community, and while I hear a mix of desires and priorities, one thing we all agree on is the priority for high-quality schools and programs. It's why most of us moved here. We chose Mead specifically for the excellent educational experience our kids could receive. And as a Mead School District Board Member, it's important for me to convey these commitments to you:

**We are committed to being fiscally responsible with your tax dollars.** We knew we'd have a few lean years after COVID, and we're in those years, but making necessary adjustments each year to do more with less. Mead provides the best financial value for any district in the region. We stretch tax dollars and provide better results through some of the best schools in Eastern WA. When the State's focus is just on funding basic education – we still provide the schools our community expects.

**We are committed to listening to parents' concerns/priorities and value your trust.** Whether it's related to school safety, mental health, technology use, etc., you can expect us to focus on retaining the trust of our community, taking feedback and making adjustments when necessary.

**We are committed to being the highest-performing district in the region.** This includes both high academic performance and great test scores as well as nationally-recognized extracurriculars. We are committed to providing an excellent educational experience to all our district's students that prepares them to be future ready.



Thank you for the trust you've placed in the Mead School District and the local support you've provided.

Sincerely,  
Michael Cannon, Board President

## REMEMBER TO VOTE!

The Feb. 13, 2024 Special Election is coming soon, so register to vote. The deadline to register online or via mail is Feb. 6, and the deadline to register in person is Feb. 13. Ballots will be mailed to registered voters beginning on Jan. 25 and will include the district's replacement Educational Programs & Operations (EP&O) Levy for voters who live in the boundaries of the Mead School District.







# REPLACEMENT LEVY

## COMMUNITY INFORMATION

 **VOTE BY**  
**FEBRUARY 13, 2024**



## REPLACEMENT EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS & OPERATIONS (EP&O) LEVY

The Mead School District is asking its community to consider a three-year replacement levy for educational programs and operations on the Special Election ballot on February 13, 2024. This replacement levy is not a new tax, it replaces a three-year levy that will expire in 2024. Without approval, items including essential staff, extra-curricular activities and a number of programs will be without a funding source in 2025.

## DID YOU KNOW?



The EP&O Levy funds about 13.6% of our district's total budget.



All of MSD's athletics, performing arts and clubs are funded by the EP&O Levy.



The state provides no funding for safety and security projects.



Levy funding provides needed resources for curriculum adoption.



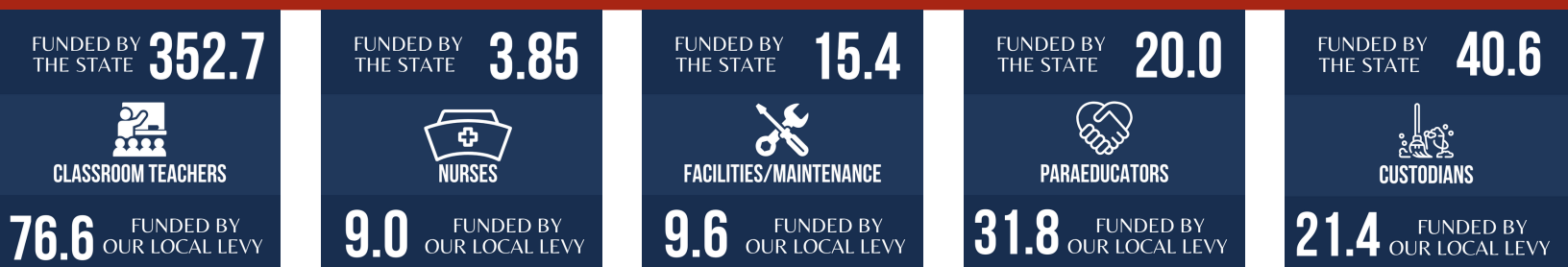
If assessed values go up, then tax rates go down. MSD can only collect the total amount listed on the ballot.



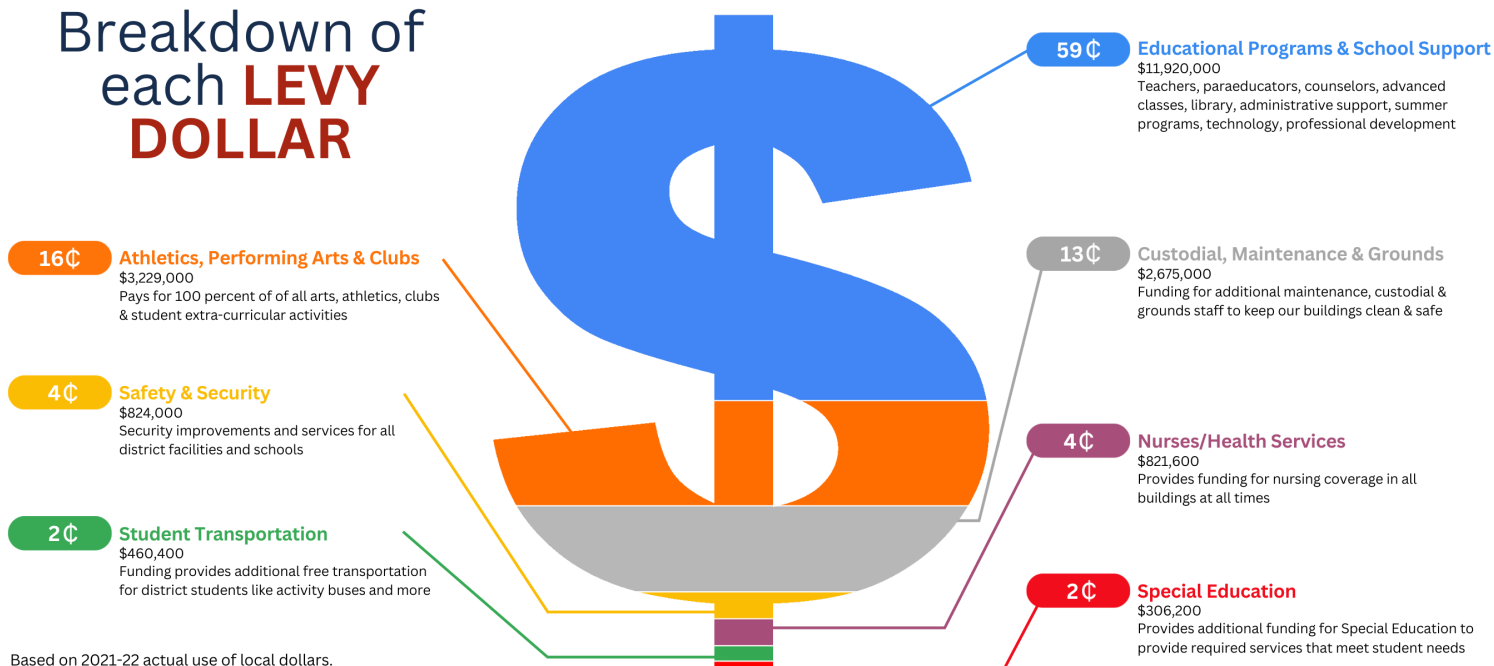
Levy funds provide staff to help class sizes remain small.

**THERE ARE THE SCHOOLS THAT OUR STATE FUNDS,  
AND THERE ARE THE SCHOOLS THAT OUR COMMUNITY WANTS AND EXPECTS.**

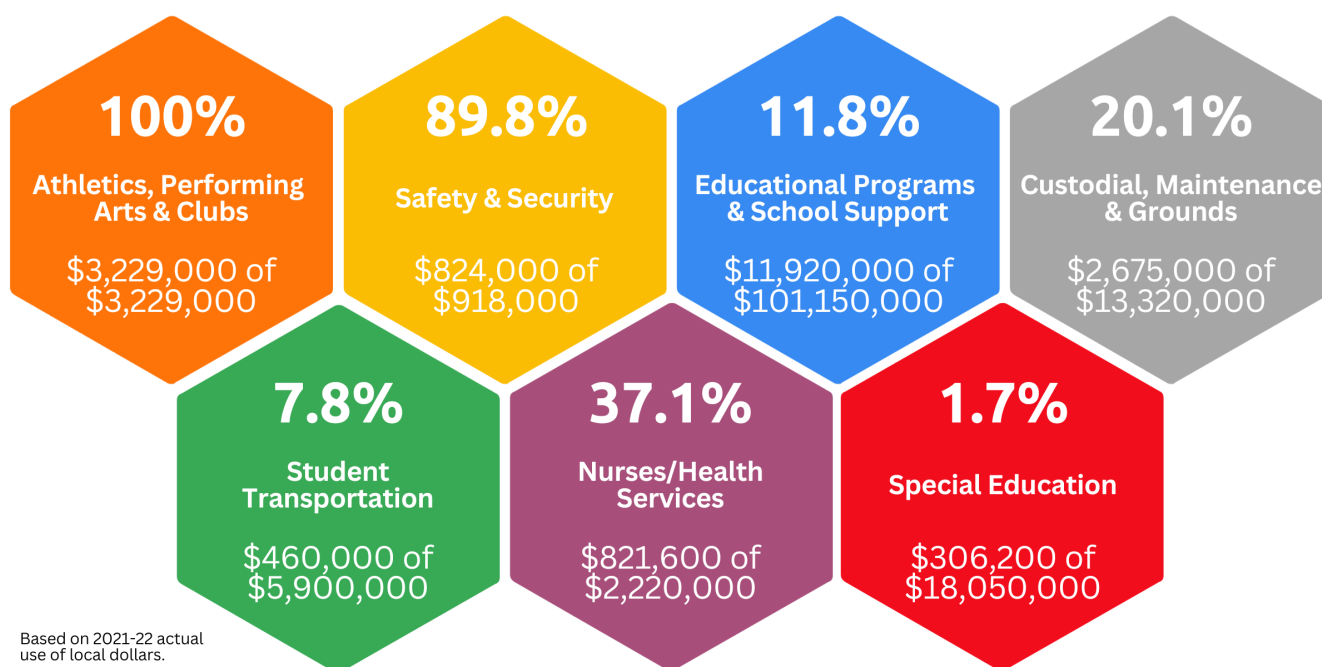
# YOUR TAX DOLLARS AT WORK - HOW IS LEVY FUNDING UTILIZED?



## Breakdown of each **LEVY DOLLAR**



The items below represent the levy dollars as a percentage of the total budget for the category listed. It provides a look into how the levy fills the gaps left by the state's prototypical school funding model. *\*Colors coordinate with the items listed above.*



**VISIT [MEAD354.ORG/LEVY](https://mead354.org/levy) FOR MORE INFORMATION**