



2023 - 2024 Annual Report



Photo courtesy Brooke Schimke

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

It has been a year full of growth, joy and achievement in the Lakewood School District and we are excited to share some of our accomplishments with you.

As a community, the strong connections present between our students, staff, families, and community members are key elements of what makes Lakewood School District a special place to live and to learn. It is only through developing strong relationships, open communication, and by working together, that we can collectively reach our goal of each student reaching high levels of learning and achievement.

The strong support we receive from our community is vital to the success of our district. We are grateful for the ongoing support of our families, community members, and local businesses and organizations for ensuring that every student in Lakewood School District can pursue their academic and extracurricular passions, thus building skills and knowledge that serve them for a lifetime. In addition, we are truly grateful for your approval of the replacement Educational Programs and Operations levy and new Capital Improvements and Safety levy. Both measures will provide critical resources, and I invite you to learn more about how we currently utilize your levy dollars in this 2023-24 Annual Report.

As we recognize the amazing work occurring, I am also excited about our future. Together, we have the opportunity to celebrate our accomplishments and look forward as we plan for the bright future ahead.



All my best,
Erin

HIGHLIGHTS

Service, Leadership and a
Community of Caring

Collaborative Community
and Programmatic
Partnerships

Equitable Access to
Powerful Learning

Financial Stewardship

Educational Programs
& Operations Levy
(2022-2024)

Capital Improvements &
Safety Levy
(2025-2028)



Service, Leadership and a Community of Caring

Lakewood High School one of 20 schools recognized for amplifying student voice

Lakewood School District is proud to announce that Lakewood High School is one of 20 schools around the state honored with the inaugural “Washington Schools on the Rise” award from the Association of Washington Student Leaders and the Association of Washington School Principals.

The award recognizes schools where students and their teachers collaborate to

improve culture and amplify student voice.

Student clubs are driven by student interests, allowing them to create spaces where they feel included. There is also a Belonging Advisory this year where students help create lessons for Advisory meetings. During a Real Talk webinar with parents, Principal Jeanette Grisham said, “They know that they’re seen and their ideas are valued.”



Cougar Cabinet reflects on changes in their schools

Students in Cougar Cabinet reflected on the improvements they have seen at their schools this year. In its second year, Cougar Cabinet was comprised of 60 students in grades 4-12.

During monthly meetings, students built connections across schools and met with their school teams and administrators. While identifying areas for improvement, students also brainstormed ways to have an impact.

LHS students Kiana, Saya and Mia took us “Inside Cougar Cabinet”: <https://bit.ly/3YBukG9>.



This year, in Cougar Cabinet’s second year, students continued to build connections across schools and meet with school teams and administrators.



Students shared their reflections from this year in a Cougar Cabinet video: <https://bit.ly/4c713pL>

Studio time generously provided by LincNW

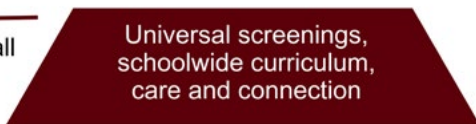
TIER III
Treatment for few



TIER II
Intervention for some



TIER I
Prevention for all



Supporting mental health and well-being

While each student’s well-being is important, not each student needs the same supports. Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) provides differentiated support through universal screenings, data-driven interventions, and progress monitoring.

All of our students learn skills to help them recognize when they feel upset and what they can do to feel calmer. Strategies include deep breathing, taking a dance break, journaling, drawing a picture, or talking to a trusted adult. Through collaboration, teachers, counselors and families foster a supportive environment that promotes resilience and reduces stigma.



Collaborative Community and Programmatic Partnerships

LHS students contribute 3,600 volunteer hours

This year, members of the Lakewood chapter of the National Honor Society completed over 3,000 hours of volunteer community service!

In addition, American Sign Language Honor Society students contributed more than 600 hours of community service and/or outreach, which reflects service to deaf communities or spreading ASL awareness.



A Stillaguamish tribal educator demonstrated a traditional drum circle during a recent elementary field trip. Students also learned about local plants, animals, and Coast Salish traditions.

Committed to Communication

Our website, lwsd.wednet.edu, will soon have a new look. Our previous provider, Blackboard, was acquired last year by Finalsite. As part of this transition, our website will undergo a significant update. This refresh is an exciting opportunity to enhance our communication platform, improving our engagement with families in support of our students. About 9,000 people visit our website every month!

Additionally, stay connected through our social media platforms: Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, NextDoor, and YouTube. You can also sign up for our e-newsletter on our website.

Focus on safety for our families and community

Partners: Snohomish County Sheriff's Office and City of Marysville



Snohomish County Sheriff's deputies visited our elementary schools this year to evaluate traffic patterns and teach kids about some of their special equipment. They also brought cocoa to the middle and high schools for two "Cocoa with Cops" events.



City of Marysville Enhanced Pedestrian Safety Project:

The City of Marysville heard at Mayor Nehring's Coffee Klatch in June 2023 from school staff and parents about the great need for a safe walking path along 172nd Street NE (SR 531) for pedestrians. City staff worked with WSDOT approval to pave a wider asphalt shoulder and add a striped buffer zone and flexible delineator posts with reflectors between the pedestrian traffic.

Supporting healthier communities

Partners: Lakewood Coalition and Washington Department of Ecology

The United Lakewood Community Coalition of community organizations is funded by a Washington Healthcare Authority grant. It connects individuals with supports and collaborates with LWSD's student assistance professional to address student substance abuse. LWSD, the Coalition and LinCNW are hosting a **Back-To-School Resource & Wellness Fair on Aug. 21 from 4-7 p.m. All are welcome for free food and fun!**



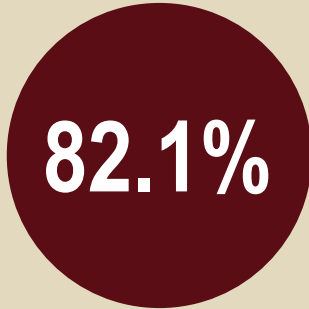
Lakewood received its third electric bus this year. In 2020, Lakewood received a grant from Washington Ecology to purchase three electric buses at a cost lower than diesel. Electric buses save money since there is no fuel, oil, or transmission to maintain. Bonus – students naturally speak more quietly.



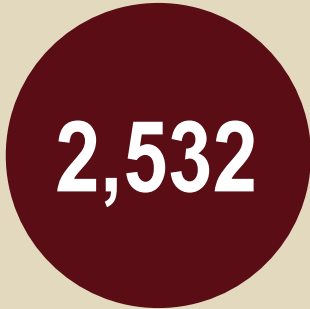
Equitable Access to Powerful Learning



Lakewood graduates... going big places!



**Four-year
Graduation Rate**
(2022-23)



**District
Enrollment**
(Oct. 1, 2023 FTE)



**Multilingual
Learners**
(2023-24)

While every student earns 24 credits to graduate, the pathways to earn those credits are not the same for every student. Each student works with their counselor on a High School & Beyond Plan beginning in middle school. Students and their counselors can refer back to the plan when choosing classes.

Career/Technical Pathway

Some students are interested in pursuing a Career/Technical Field (CTE) after graduation: Popular Career/Technical Education classes include CorePlus Construction, American Sign Language, Video Foundations, Animal Biology and Marketing. Students can also apply to take one or more classes at the regional Sno-Isle Skills Center (exp: aerospace engineering, auto repair, firefighting, dental assistant) or at the RAP (Regional Apprenticeship Pathways) program (construction, electrical and labor trades).

Military Pathway

Students who want to pursue military service after graduation can meet the pathways requirement by meeting a minimum score established by the military on the ASVAB (Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery).

BY THE NUMBERS

- **College in the High School:** 299
- **Running Start:** 57 (full-time 10, part-time 45)
- **Advanced Placement:** 32
- **CTE:** 648
- **Sno-Isle Skills Center:** 25
- **Regional Apprenticeship Pathways:** 15

Postsecondary Pathway

Thinking about college? Students who want to pursue a postsecondary education can get a head start. Many LHS classes for 11th/12th graders allow students to receive both college and high school credit. Popular dual-credit options include: **12 College in**

NEW PROGRAM GUARANTEES COLLEGE ADMISSION

Senior year is stressful enough. One thing students don't need to stress about anymore is whether they will be accepted to college. Lakewood is partnering with WAGAP — Washington Guaranteed Admissions Program — to guarantee students admission to six four-year public universities in the state if they meet these two criteria:

- Maintain a minimum GPA of 3.0 or higher
- Complete, or are on track to complete, all the College Academic Distribution Requirements

the High School classes (popular options such as Pre-Calculus, Honors U.S. History and Advanced Biology/Forensics), **four Advanced Placement** classes, **three Tech Prep** classes, and **Running Start** classes at Everett Community College or Skagit Valley College.



Equitable Access to Powerful Learning

49.4%

Low-income students
(2023-24)

65%

Teachers with advanced degrees
(2023-24)

5.7%

Homeless Students
(2023-24)

"Lakewood High School is dedicated to educating students to become respectful, responsible, and literate citizens with the skills to contribute to a global community."

Lakewood High School
mission statement

SPOTLIGHT: LHS teacher is Claes Nobel Educator of Distinction

Lakewood High School science teacher Mike Fellows was awarded the Claes Nobel Educator of Distinction by the National Society of High School Scholars.



Fellows was nominated by senior Kaitlyn Grant. She wrote, "Mr. Fellows' class was challenging and his teaching style was extremely informative. Mr. Fellows is the person who sparked my love for science, thanks to him I feel confident in my choice to major in the science field once I go to college."

Lakewood High renews accreditation

During their fourth episode of "Real Talk with Lakewood Principals," Lakewood High School Principal Jeanette Grisham chatted with Superintendent Dr. Erin Murphy and Lakewood Middle School Principal Amanda Coté about the high school's accreditation process and the role of student voice in that process.

Adjudicators were impressed with the district's overall goal of making sure that each student feels a sense belonging. Students who feel engaged in school have better attendance and are more connected to academics. Students were able to talk about the progress they have seen in their school and the changes they have identified and implemented.

Dr. Murphy elaborated on the district's approach toward continuous improvement. Each school shares its improvement plan on its website and collaborates with staff, students, parents and community members to measure progress.

Two schools receive Washington School Recognition Awards

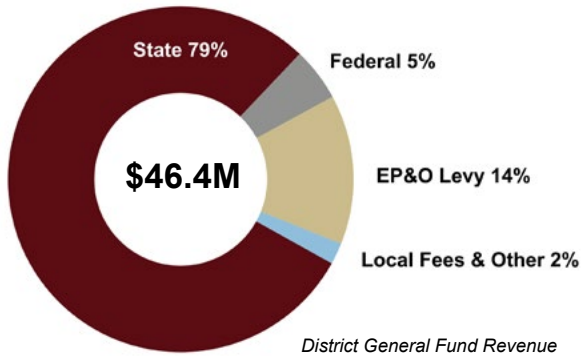


Cougar Creek and English Crossing Elementary Schools were honored with Washington School Recognition Awards for the 2022-2023 school year.

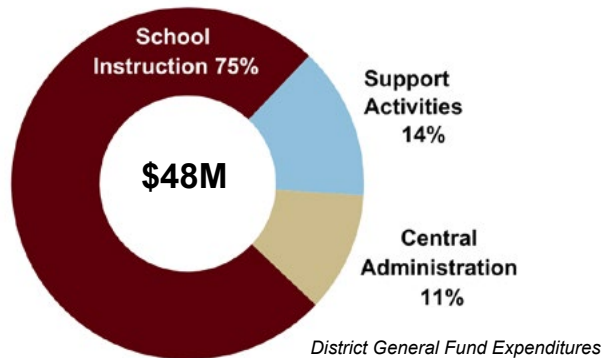


- **Cougar Creek Elementary:** Recognized for growth in one or more student groups.
- **English Crossing Elementary:** Recognized for closing achievement gaps in one or more student groups.

Where does the money come from?



How is the money spent?



LWSD utilized approximately \$1.7 million from our reserve funds in 2023-24. LWSD will continue to work in the coming years to balance revenue with expenditures while maintaining a 10% fund balance as required by Board policy. Our priority remains to support our students, staff, and community effectively while maintaining fiscal responsibility.

Bond refinancing will save taxpayers \$4.6 million

In March, Lakewood was able to refinance its 2014 bonds. By refinancing these \$30.5 million in bonds, interest payments will be reduced, which will save district taxpayers \$4.6 million in interest over the next nine years.

Lakewood will be eligible to refinance an additional \$10 million in bonds this fall. We have started the necessary process to move forward with the refinance, pending favorable market conditions.

Citizen's Guide to the Budget

Lakewood School District appreciates the tremendous support we receive from our community taxpayers and partners. As a district, we strive to operate efficiently and to be good stewards of taxpayer dollars.

More than three-quarters of the General Fund budget will be spent directly on **school instruction**. This includes teachers, counselors, librarians, educational assistants, teaching supplies, materials, textbooks, instructional staff development, and extracurricular activities, all of which enrich the overall quality of classroom instruction.

Support activities, such as custodial, transportation, food services, maintenance, utilities, and insurance, amount to 14%.

Central administration makes up the remaining 11% of the budget. These expenses include development, coordination and evaluation of instructional programs by the superintendent and central office. Also included are business and human resources, supervision for nutrition services, maintenance and transportation, communications and legal costs.



The 2023-24 Citizen's Guide to the Budget is designed to build understanding of how Washington schools are funded and how in Lakewood School District allocate these revenues. Read the latest Lakewood Citizen's Guide to the Budget on our website or scan the QR code. The 2024-25 guide will be available on our website later this fall.



AA3 BOND RATING CONVEYS CONFIDENCE

During the bond refinancing process, LWSD was assigned an Aa3 rating by Moody's Investors Service. The Aa3 rating represents an independent stamp of approval concerning our financial practices and outlook. We are proud of this rating and the confidence it conveys.



Educational Programs and Operations Levy (2022-2024)



Thank you, Lakewood!

On April 23, voters approved both the Replacement Educational Programs and Operations Levy and a new Capital Improvements and Safety Levy. Both levies will be collected in 2025-2028. Thank you for your support and for investing in a strong future for Lakewood!

The EP&O Levy makes up 14% of our general fund revenue and provides funding for people and programs districtwide.



Paraeducators are education heroes in our schools! They play a vital role in creating supportive learning environments by helping students.



Cougar Unified Soccer held its inaugural game this year. Unified sports bring together students with and without intellectual disabilities on the same team. See lhscougarathletics.com for athletics schedules.



Career and technical classes like robotics at Lakewood Middle School equip students with critical thinking skills and open the doors to exciting and innovative careers in STEM fields.



Lakewood Summer Academy: If you lose your way, a compass can help you get back on track. Fourth and fifth graders in the Learning in Nature class were among the 119 students who participated in Summer Academy.



Capital Improvements and Safety Levy (2025-2028)

At its July 17 study session, the Lakewood Board of Directors reviewed a list of priorities for the Capital Improvements and Safety Levy: The list is based on the work of the Capital Facilities Advisory Committee, which met in 2023.

The tentative schedule includes:

2024-25

- **SAFETY:** Fencing to improve security during school hours
- **ENERGY EFFICIENCY:** Replace aging LES boiler and HVAC system

2025-26

- **SAFETY:** Secure exterior doors at LES and ECE
- **SAFETY:** Update LMS and ECE

fire alarm control panels and building communications system

- **PRESERVATION:** Replace aging LMS roof
- **ACCOMMODATE GROWTH:** Reconfigure LMS cafeteria

2026-27

- **SAFETY:** Secure exterior doors at LMS
- **PRESERVATION:** Update electrical equipment at LES, LMS
- **EFFICIENCY:** Lighting and electrical fixture updates at LES, ECE, CCE, LMS

2027-28

- **SAFETY:** Secure exterior doors at CCE
- **PRESERVATION:** Update hot water and heat pumps at ECE



To increase security at school, fencing is going up around Lakewood Elementary. Fields and playgrounds will remain open to the public when students are not in school.

Additional Improvements

- Improve ADA accessibility
- Improve signage and wayfinding
- Clean school exteriors



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Congratulations Heart of Lakewood recipients

On June 20, the Lakewood Board of Directors recognized its Heart of Lakewood recipients:

Melanie Irish, Career Center Specialist at LHS, goes above and beyond to ensure that every student receives individual attention and advice to navigate the college application process and provide information about different careers paths.

Ken Christiansen and Jahna Smith were recognized for their leadership on the Lakewood H.E.L.P. Committee during the 2024 levy election.

Congratulations to our Heart of Lakewood award recipients. We are grateful for your contributions!

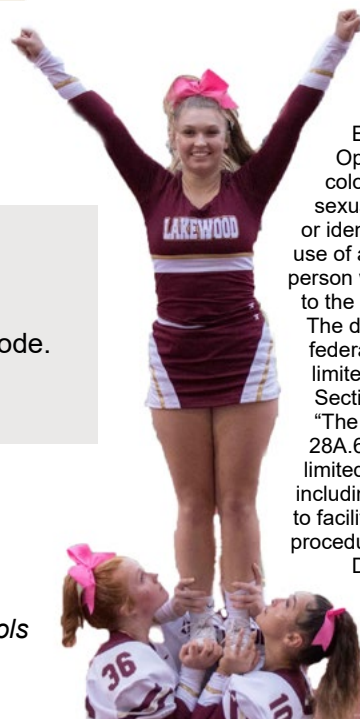
Lakewood School Board



- District #1: Steven Larson
- District #2: Catherine "Sandy" Gotts
- District #3: Dana Krueger
- District #4: Dawn Taylor
- District #5: Leah Tocco
- Student Advisor: Saya Barber, LHS
- Student Advisor: Amelia Escalante, LHS

NON-DISCRIMINATION NOTICE:

In accordance with RCW49.60, the Lakewood School District does not discriminate in employment and schools. The Lakewood School District provides Equal Educational and Employment Opportunity without regard to race, creed, color, national origin, sex, handicap/disability, sexual orientation including gender expression or identity, religion, age, veteran or military status, use of a trained dog to guide or service animal by a person with a disability, and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and designated youth groups. The district complies with all applicable state and federal laws and regulations to include, but not limited to, Title IX, Title VI of the Civil Rights Acts, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, RCW 49.60 "The Law Against Discrimination," and RCW 28A.640 "Sex Equity," and covers, but is not limited to, all district programs, courses, activities, including extracurricular activities, services, access to facilities, etc. Inquiries regarding compliance procedures should be directed to Lakewood School District, 17110 16th Drive NE, Marysville, WA 98271, Attention: Title IX and Civil Rights Officer, Timothy Haines, 360-652-4500, thaines@lwsd.wednet.edu or ADA Compliance Officer and Section 504 Compliance Officer, Lissan Wipfli, 360-652-4500, lwipfli@lwsd.wednet.edu.



View District Report Cards

See all district report cards at:
<https://bit.ly/4d9SawO> or scan the QR code.



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