

From: [TSD - Laurie Wiedenmeyer](#)
To: [TSD Staff and Families](#)
Subject: Tumwater Schools Budget Update
Date: Friday, January 17, 2025 6:00:18 PM

January 17, 2025

Dear Staff and Community Members,

As we prepare for the 2025-26 school year budget, I want to provide another [update](#) on our district's budget process. Following reductions for the 2024-25 school year, we are now facing the need to reduce our budget by about 5% for 2025-26.

At last week's Board work session, guiding principles for the reduction process and three potential reduction strategies/scenarios were discussed. The Board remains committed to protecting the quality of education for our students and making data-driven decisions. However, staffing reductions will be necessary, and we are focused on transparency, fairness, and adherence to collective bargaining agreements.

Key upcoming dates include the January 23rd Board meeting, where a resolution to authorize reductions for central office and district support service positions will be considered. The February 13th meeting will include a resolution for building-level positions. These early actions will allow us to notify affected staff promptly and provide them with support.

Our goal is to manage this process thoughtfully while minimizing the effects on our students. Under the leadership of the Board, a fiscal recovery plan is being developed to bring the district back into compliance with current Board policy on fund balance requirements. These efforts will be guided by the principles established by the school board during the work session, which ensures a strategic lens to the work, and also guides future decisions as our financial situation changes.

The Legislature has now convened for the 2025 session. We remain hopeful for more robust financial support from the Legislature, but we must plan responsibly based on current projections. We are committed to providing updates, and we encourage you to stay informed and engaged. In today's update/newsletter that was emailed to you, we included the board's legislative priorities along with a link to access legislator contact information and meeting details. When it comes to the needs of our kids, Legislators want to hear your voice!

We will be offering two community-wide Budget Town Halls to provide you with an opportunity to ask questions and provide feedback.

- **Tuesday, January 21, 2025 from 4:00-4:30 pm** [Link here to join](#)
- **Wednesday, February 5, 2025 from 4:00--4:30 pm** [Link here to join](#)

If you plan to attend one of the town hall meetings and need an interpreter, please contact [Laurie Wiedenmeyer at this link](#).

Thank you for your dedication and understanding as we navigate these challenges. Together, we remain committed to delivering a high-quality education for our students.

Sincerely,

Kevin Bogatin, Superintendent

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