



# 2024 - 2025 Annual Report



## Dear Friends and Neighbors,

We are so proud of the learning, growth and achievement of Lakewood students. We look forward to sharing our accomplishments with you in this year's annual report. The success of our district is deeply rooted in the strong partnership we share with our community. Thanks to our dedicated staff, engaged families, and generous taxpayers and voters who approved our 2024 Educational Programs & Operations Levy. This support provides dynamic programs and opportunities for our students to ignite creativity, critical thinking skills, and teach teamwork and collaboration.



Our staff have started addressing key projects outlined in the voter-approved 2024 Capital Improvements and Safety Levy. Already, our team has completed several projects focused on maintenance, preservation, safety and security. As strong stewards of taxpayer dollars, we applied for and received almost \$600,000 in grants to support such projects (Page 7).

Additional grant funding was also applied for — and received — to purchase new school buses. The district is set to receive more than \$1.5 million in awards —fully covering the purchase of three new electric buses.

As one Lakewood, we celebrate what we've accomplished and embrace the exciting opportunities that lie ahead.

All my best,

*Erin*

## HIGHLIGHTS

Service, Leadership and a  
Community of Caring

Collaborative Family and  
Community Engagement

Equitable Access to  
Powerful Learning

Financial Stewardship

Educational Programs  
& Operations Levy  
(2025-2028)

Capital Improvements &  
Safety Levy  
(2025-2028)



# Service, Leadership and a Community of Caring

## Celebrating 7 years of STEM for each student at Lakewood Middle School



Step into the LMS STEM Lab, and you might feel like you've entered a miniature world. By the end of the year, students have engineered mini traffic lights, crossings, and doors.

The 2024–25 school year marked a STEM milestone for Lakewood. This year's graduating class was the first to take Design Tech, an introduction to laser cutters, 3D printers and CAD

design software, in 2018. Since then, LMS has added advanced classes for seventh and eighth graders.

In one hands-on project, the class teamed up with district facilities staff to 3D print custom parts for hard-to-find vacuum components and brackets—going beyond the classroom to find solutions for real-world problems.

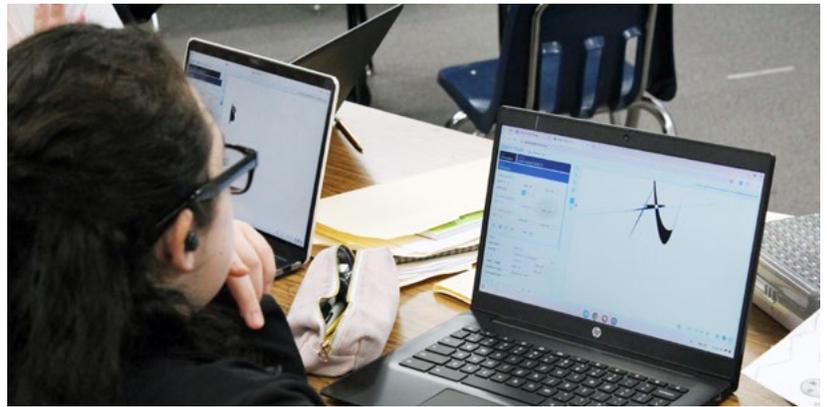
### Building a Strong Foundation: Ninth Grade Success at LHS

At Lakewood High School, the focus on ninth-grade success helps students to start high school strong. Jen Brown, the LHS Student Success Coordinator, brings heart and strategy to this effort.

As the school's "data champion," Brown closely monitors ninth-grade progress to identify students who may be off track—and works to understand the "why" behind the data. Each month, she meets with students, families, teachers, and the ninth-grade team to offer support.

Sometimes she talks with students about their grades, but other times she asks them about their weekend. "Relationships are so important," she says of her work.

Lakewood's focus on ninth grade isn't accidental. Research shows that students who complete ninth grade on track are four times more likely to graduate. With support from the state's Ninth Grade Success Grant, the school is receiving targeted training to strengthen its approach—because when students start strong, they're more likely to finish strong.



Careers in Design students design their own letter "A" with Glyphr.

## New classes help students explore innovative careers

Lakewood Middle School students are building creativity and exploring careers through two new electives.

In Horticulture, students pitched eco-friendly inventions—like a pollution-cleaning drone and a plant-powered battery—and are growing food and flowers in new garden beds.

In Careers in Design, students explore digital design and branding through hands-on projects like custom fonts and ice cream truck wraps.

Both classes inspire students to think like creators, innovators, and future professionals.



Students in Horticulture class and Green Thumb Club are using new garden beds at LMS.



# Collaborative Family and Community Engagement

## Back-to-School Resource and Wellness Fair returns on August 21

**Partners: LINC Northwest, United Lakewood Coalition and Community Partners**

Lakewood’s first-ever Back to School Resource and Wellness Fair was a huge success, drawing more than 400 attendees and over a dozen community partners. Thanks to the strong community support, our event is back!

Join us on Thursday, August 21 for free backpacks, delicious food, fun games, and helpful resources for families. Parking will be next door at Lakewood High School.

Interested in volunteering? Visit our website for details. Join us to kick off the new school year together!



### EVENT DETAILS

Thursday, August 21  
4-7 p.m.  
LINC Northwest



Community partners this year will include Marysville Fire, Sno-Isle Libraries, Arlington Municipal Airport, YMCA, Snohomish PUD, and more!

## Sharing cultural traditions

**Partner: Stillaguamish Tribe**



Lakewood fourth graders explore the cultural traditions of the Stillaguamish Tribe during an educational field trip.

## National Honor Society donates 2,537 volunteer hours

This year, the Lakewood High School chapter of the National Honor Society (NHS) made a remarkable impact by contributing a total of 2,537 volunteer hours to our community. These dedicated students have demonstrated a strong commitment to service, leadership, and character—core values of NHS.



NHS students, pictured with LHS retiree Kay Throndsen, volunteered during Lakewood’s Retirement and Years of Service Celebration.

## PUD energy cohort helps Lakewood improve efficiencies

**Partner: Snohomish PUD**

Lakewood School District made a commitment toward energy efficiency this year by joining the Snohomish PUD Commercial Strategic Energy Management (CSEM) cohort, which is helping Lakewood facilities staff to integrate energy management into regular business practices.

Lighting up an entire stadium is no small feat. Lakewood’s recent LED-lighting improvements at the middle school and high school stadium are projected to save 220,334 kWh each year.

Superintendent Dr. Erin Murphy said, “We are pleased to have the opportunity to improve the learning environment for our students and staff while demonstrating responsible stewardship of taxpayer dollars.”



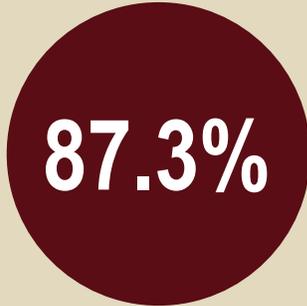
The Snohomish PUD CSEM cohort recently visited ECE to look for energy efficiencies. Recommendations from year one of the two-year cohort are already saving energy and money.



# Equitable Access to Powerful Learning



Lakewood graduates... going big places!



**Four-year Graduation Rate**  
(2023-24)



**District Enrollment**  
(Oct. 1, 2024 FTE)



**Multilingual Learners**  
(2024-25)



Executive Director of Teaching & Learning Bryan Toutant and ECE Principal Michele Ricci with ECE's banner. Only 16% of schools statewide received recognition. Superintendent Dr. Erin Murphy said, "This achievement shines a light on the dedication I see every day across our schools and classrooms."

## English Crossing receives state award

English Crossing Elementary School has been honored with a Washington School Recognition Award for the 2023-2024 school year. The school was recognized for Growth for English Learner (Multilingual) students.



ECE fourth graders collaborate to design a space rover.

## GROWTH IN ATTENDANCE

Part of this success is the school's "All-In" attendance incentive program. In the 2023-24 school year, overall attendance improved by 15%,

with a 23% increase among Multilingual Learner students. Fun rewards like class parties and ice cream motivate students to stay engaged.

## SETTING SAIL WITH CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION



**Above:** Student-driven projects help students apply what they are learning. To match the "Under the Sea" prom theme, the TSA Construction Club designed and built a free-standing shipwreck photo prop.



**Right:** The new FFA Meats Judging team competed in their first contest and took 7th place out of 20 teams.

## GRADUATING ON TIME

Lakewood's four-year graduation rate for Multilingual Learner students has steadily increased to about 86%. This is 17% above the state average of 68.8%. Our low-income students have also made strides. The four-year graduation rate of 80.8% is above the state average of 76% for low-income students.



# Equitable Access to Powerful Learning



**Low-income students**  
(2024-25)



**Teachers with advanced degrees**  
(2023-24)



**Homeless Students**  
(2024-25)

*"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

## Diving into division with instruction to help every student grow



Craig Koefod checks in with one of his fourth graders practicing long division.

In Mr. Craig Koefod's fourth grade class at Cougar Creek Elementary, students are working hard to stay focused and not give up when learning gets tough. Each morning, they play a fun game to get their brains ready for the day and to learn skills such as good listening habits.

During math time, students choose the division problems that match their skill level. Some students practice basic division, while others challenge themselves with long division from fifth

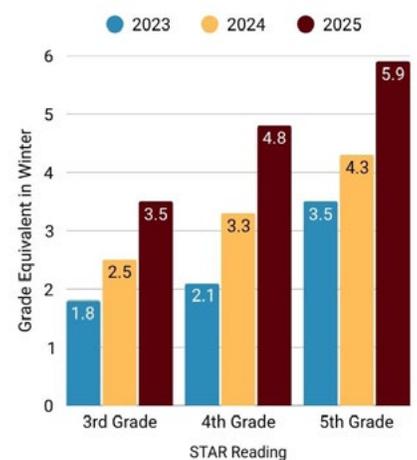
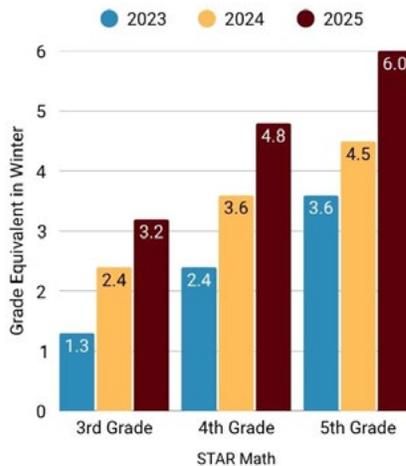
grade. Mr. Koefod checks in with each student to help them when they need it. This way, everyone gets the support they need to grow and feel confident in math.

Thanks to a focus on academics and Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS), students are receiving the right help at the right time. MTSS allows teachers to tailor instruction and support to meet each student's needs, whether they need extra practice or are ready for more advanced challenges.

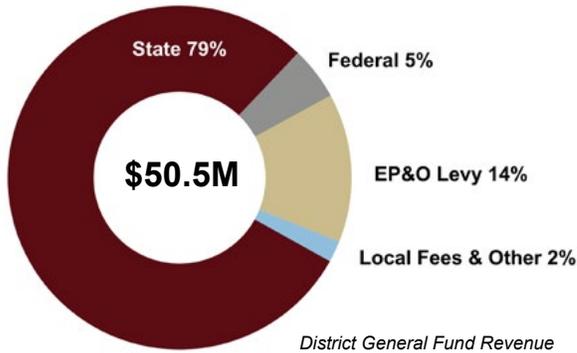
## Students making strong gains in reading and math

By fourth grade, students are expected to make an important shift—from learning to read to reading to learn. This year's STAR test results show that our third through fifth graders are right on track, with steady improvement for the last few years. With multi-tiered systems of support, every student receives the support they need and is challenged to reach new milestones.

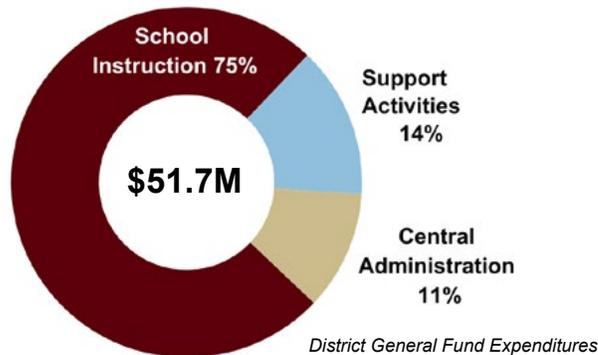
We're proud to share that this year's fifth graders met or exceeded their grade-level expectations in both reading and math. Our students are growing, thriving, and ready for what's next.



## Where does the money come from?



## How is the money spent?



LWSD utilized approximately \$1.2 million from our reserve funds in 2024-25. 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 \$2.2 million

In September 2024, Lakewood refinanced \$7.9 million in 2015 bonds, saving taxpayers about \$2.2 million in interest over the next ten years. Combined with the previous February 2024 bond sale, total savings will reach about \$6.8 million for taxpayers over the next decade.

“Lakewood’s School Board and Administration have worked diligently to secure a successful bond sale that truly honors our community’s support,” said Superintendent Dr. Erin Murphy.

## 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 2024-25 Citizen’s Guide to the Budget is designed to build understanding of how Washington schools are funded and how we 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 2025-26 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. This strong rating provided impetus for investor demand for our bonds, resulting in a lower borrowing cost for district residents. We are proud of this rating and the confidence it conveys in our financial practices.



## Educational Programs and Operations Levy (2025-2028)



### Thank you, Lakewood voters!

In 2024, our community approved both the Replacement Educational Programs & Operations (EP&O) Levy and the Capital Improvements & Safety Levy. These levies will be collected from 2025 through 2028 and are vital to maintaining and improving our schools.

The EP&O Levy accounts for 14% of our general fund, supporting essential staff and programs districtwide. Thank you for your continued support and for investing in a strong future for Lakewood students!



**LHS Drama** brought classic literature to life in their performance of *Cyrano de Bergerac* — an example of how levy support fuels creativity and confidence.



**Boys Basketball** claimed its first District Championship with a win over undefeated Lynden—see [lhscougarathletics.com](http://lhscougarathletics.com) for schedules. Girls Flag Football debuts this year!



**Lakewood Middle School wrestling** hosted 49 girls from around our conference during its first girls wrestling scrimmage. LMS had nine girls wrestling this year.



**School counselors** support student success. At LES, a counselor-led lesson taught students how to let go of “Little Problems” and how to ask for help with “Big Problems.”



## Capital Improvements and Safety Levy (2025-2028)

Thanks to the support of our voters, Lakewood School District received its first levy collection in April—and we’re already putting your investment to work:

### ✔ Projects Already Underway ✔

**🕒 Time for a Change:** The bell, master clock, and intercom system at Lakewood Middle School was replaced after the outdated system failed this fall. Now, everyone’s on the same page—and the same time!

**🔒 Safety First:** New fencing has been installed to improve security during school hours.

### 💡 Energy Efficiency Upgrades:

- LED lighting improvements at LMS and LHS Stadium (partially grant funded)
- Daylight and motion sensor programming at LHS (partially grant funded)

**♿ Accessibility Matters:** An ADA button has been added to the LMS cafeteria building door.

### 📅 What’s Coming Next 📅

- Replace aging LES boiler and HVAC (2025-26)
- Update LMS fire alarm control panels (2025-26)
- Replace aging LMS roof (2026-27)
- Electrical at LES/LMS (2026-27)



**ENERGY EFFICIENCY:** You might notice something new at the stadium when you attend a football game this fall — energy-saving LED lights! Thanks to support from Snohomish PUD and the WA Department of Commerce, we’ve upgraded our lighting system to cut energy use and save money — helping to meet energy goals set by Washington’s Clean Buildings Act.



Lakewood School District  
 P.O. Box 220  
 N. Lakewood, WA 98259

NON-PROFIT ORG  
 US POSTAGE PAID  
 PERMIT #2  
 LAKEWOOD, WA

\*\*\*\*\*ECRWSS\*\*\*\*  
 RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER

## Congratulations Heart of Lakewood recipients

On June 18, the Lakewood Board of Directors recognized its Heart of Lakewood recipients:

**Leaha Boser**, a dedicated parent and former board member, launched Cougar of the Month celebrations this year at LES and stepped in as a substitute teacher when she learned there was a shortage.

**Brandy Stamey**, district student information coordinator, builds partnerships across departments and helped to lead our Qmlativ software conversion. 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: Amelia Escalante, LHS
- Student Advisor: Rubi Carmona-Rodriguez, LHS



### View District Report Cards

See all district report cards at: <https://bit.ly/4nkmJ8M> or scan the QR code.



### 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](mailto:thaines@lwsd.wednet.edu) or ADA Compliance Officer and Section 504 Compliance Officer, Lissan Wipfli, 360-652-4500, [lwipfli@lwsd.wednet.edu](mailto:lwipfli@lwsd.wednet.edu).



[LWSW.WEDNET.EDU](http://LWSW.WEDNET.EDU)



[/Lakewood306](https://www.facebook.com/Lakewood306)



[/lakewoodschools](https://www.instagram.com/lakewoodschools)