



MONROE  
SCHOOL DISTRICT

FALL 2025

# MSD ▶ CONNECTED

*A publication for the Monroe School District community*



[www.monroe.wednet.edu](http://www.monroe.wednet.edu)



@MonroeWAschools



@MonroeWAschools



# DEAR MONROE SCHOOL DISTRICT COMMUNITY,

The 2025–26 school year is off to a great start! Our students and staff have settled into routines and are diving into learning.

While nearly 70% of households in our community don't currently have students in our schools, we know our schools are at the heart of Monroe. This publication is one way to keep everyone connected, because strong schools build strong communities.

In this publication to our community, you'll see the positive momentum we are continuing to make on student learning. You'll also learn more about each of our schools, including an in-depth look at Sky Valley Education Center, one of our most unique schools.

Throughout my first two years as Superintendent, many of you asked us to take a closer look at our buildings, identify

necessary updates, and share a long range facilities plan. In response, our Facility Advisory Committee (FAC) has been hard at work. I invite you to read on to learn about the current state of our schools, the FAC's progress, and what comes next.

Please keep an eye on our website and newsletters for updates, and don't hesitate to reach out with questions or ideas. I look forward to working together this year and continuing to share our progress with you.

Thank you for being part of this community and for all you do in support of our students.

Sincerely,

**Shawn Woodward**

*Superintendent*

*woodwards@monroe.wednet.edu*



**MONROE SCHOOL DISTRICT**

ANNUAL COMMUNITY GUIDE TO THE BUDGET

2025-2026

## 2025-26 COMMUNITY GUIDE TO THE BUDGET

School finance is complex, with many rules about how funds are received, restricted, and spent. To help make our budget easier to understand, we provide an annual Community Guide to the Budget. This resource breaks down our district's financial picture in simple, accessible language so community members can clearly see how their tax dollars support students, staff, and schools.

The guide for this year's budget is now available on our website for you to explore and see how your tax dollars support our schools.

**VIEW THE GUIDE ON OUR WEBSITE:** [www.monroe.wednet.edu/budget](http://www.monroe.wednet.edu/budget)



## ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

### Chain Lake Elementary

**Grades:** K-5  
**Capacity:** 462  
**Enrollment:** 411  
**Year Built:** 1989

### Frank Wagner Elementary

**Grades:** PK-5  
**Capacity:** 652  
**Enrollment:** 500  
**Year Built:** 1989 - original two story classroom wing + gym/cafeteria; 2019 - new two story addition including classrooms, office, library, and makerspace

### Fryelands Elementary

**Grades:** PK-5  
**Capacity:** 403  
**Enrollment:** 400  
**Year Built:** 2005

### Maltby Elementary

**Grades:** K-5  
**Capacity:** 409  
**Enrollment:** 330  
**Year Built:** 1989 - original school; 2005 - full modernization + addition of Building D and addition to Building C

### Salem Woods Elementary

**Grades:** K-5  
**Capacity:** 533  
**Enrollment:** 515  
**Year Built:** 1980 - gym/cafeteria; 2018 - new modernized school

## MIDDLE SCHOOLS

### Hidden River Middle School

**Grades:** 6-8  
**Capacity:** 523  
**Enrollment:** 311  
**Year Built:** 1999 - original school; 2005 - gym & music room addition; 2018 - expansion of two story wing including classrooms, cafeteria and kitchen, and all-weather recreational fields

### Park Place Middle School

**Grades:** 6-8  
**Capacity:** 864  
**Enrollment:** 795  
**Year Built:** 1974 - original two story F building (now used for storage only); 2018 - new modernized & expanded school and addition of all-weather recreational fields

## ALTERNATIVE LEARNING SCHOOLS

### Leaders High School

**Grades:** 9-12  
**Capacity:** 64  
**Enrollment:** 51  
**Year Built:** Currently in portables on the MHS campus

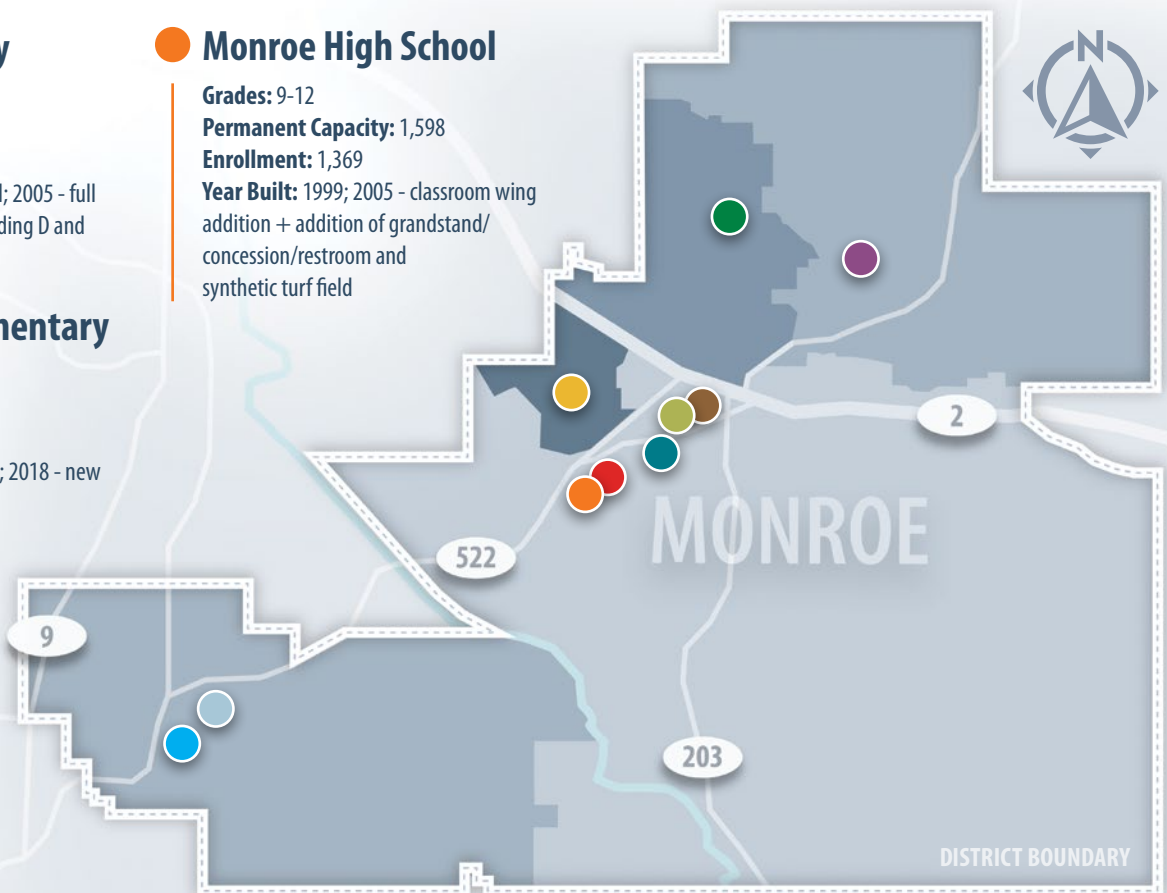
### Sky Valley Education Center

**Grades:** K-12  
**Capacity:** Because not all students attend full time, the school can accommodate more part-time students than it could if every student were enrolled full time. Therefore, providing a single capacity number would be inaccurate.  
**Enrollment:** 1,068  
**Year Built:** 1954 - original building; 1964 - addition of Annex building; 1967 - addition of library, gym and office buildings, and addition to Annex building; 1980 - addition of gym; 1990 - addition to office building

## HIGH SCHOOL

### Monroe High School

**Grades:** 9-12  
**Permanent Capacity:** 1,598  
**Enrollment:** 1,369  
**Year Built:** 1999; 2005 - classroom wing addition + addition of grandstand/concession/restroom and synthetic turf field



\***Capacity:** permanent building capacity, not including portable classrooms

\***Enrollment:** student headcount as of September 2025

# WHAT IS SKY VALLEY EDUCATION CENTER?

Sky Valley Education Center (SVEC) is one of Monroe School District's most unique and innovative schools.

Serving nearly 1,100 students in grades K–12, SVEC is the second largest school in the district and operates as an Alternative Learning Experience (ALE) program.

SVEC serves nearly 1,100 students in grades K–12.

In the Monroe School District, we understand that every student learns differently and has unique strengths, needs, and interests. As such, we are committed to offering different pathways to support diverse learners in meeting their educational goals and achieving independent success. SVEC is an example of that commitment in action as it provides a variety of programs and pathways designed to meet individual learning styles.

As an ALE, SVEC meets all state public education requirements while also following Washington's ALE guidelines (Chapter 392-550 WAC). This model allows for flexibility, personalization, and high family involvement, ensuring every student has the support, resources, and guidance they need to achieve their educational goals in a way that best fits their individual learning style.

By blending flexibility with accountability, and independence with community, SVEC helps students discover their pathways to success, while keeping families at the heart of the learning journey.

## A True Parent Partnership

SVEC is more than a school, it's a community of learners, families, and educators. Parent involvement is central to how the school operates:

**Active Participation** – Parents/guardians are welcome and encouraged on campus, often partnering with teachers in classrooms. For students 11 and younger, a parent or guardian must remain on campus.

**Independent Campus Privileges** – Students 12 and older may attend without a parent/guardian, though families may be asked to provide extra support on campus when needed.

**Shared Responsibility** – Families commit to staying engaged through online platforms that track their student's progress, classes, and communication.



## What Makes SVEC Unique

- **Family-Centered Approach** – Parents and guardians are active partners in education, working with staff to design learning plans that reflect each student's needs and interests.
- **Flexible Learning Options** – Students can learn through hands-on classes, project-based experiences, or independent study—choosing the pathways that fit their learning style best.
- **Multi-Age, Mastery-Based Learning** – Classes are multi-age, and students advance as they master skills. The focus is on growth and achievement rather than traditional grades.
- **Flexible Enrollment** – Students may enroll full-time (5–7 classes) or part-time (2–4 classes), allowing them the flexibility to also participate in home-based learning, classes at traditional schools, or other programs.
- **Parent Support** – We prioritize transparent, year-round communication between families and teachers, and offer regular workshops for families to help support student learning at home.



# MEASURING OUR PROGRESS

Our five-year strategic plan guides our efforts, aligns our resources, and provides a framework for monitoring results so we can make informed decisions to effectively meet the needs of our students, staff, families, and community.

Many of our goal areas have performance indicators to help us determine our progress toward meeting our goals. Below is one of our most important goal areas, associated performance data, and five-year performance targets.



GOAL 1

All students are ready for their future.

**Objective 1.2:** Ensure high levels of learning for all students across grade levels, courses, and content areas.

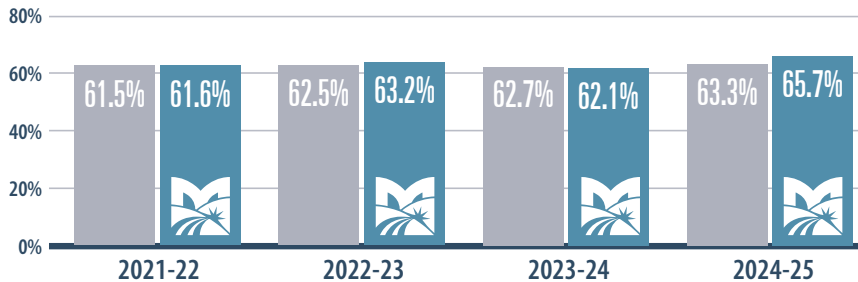
**Smarter Balanced Assessment Results** – Each spring, Monroe School District students take state-required assessments. Students in grades 3–8 and grade 10 complete the Smarter Balanced Assessment (SBA) in English Language Arts (reading and writing) and math.

These state tests give us a snapshot of how students are doing in key academic areas and help us track progress over time. However, they are just one piece of the puzzle. Our teachers also use a variety of short, frequent classroom-based assessments throughout the year to check for understanding and adjust instruction as needed. These day-to-day checks are often even more valuable in supporting student learning.

These assessment results show the percentage of Monroe School District students who demonstrated **foundational grade-level knowledge/skills or above** over the last four years, including the most recent results from the spring of 2025.

## SBA Achievement – Math

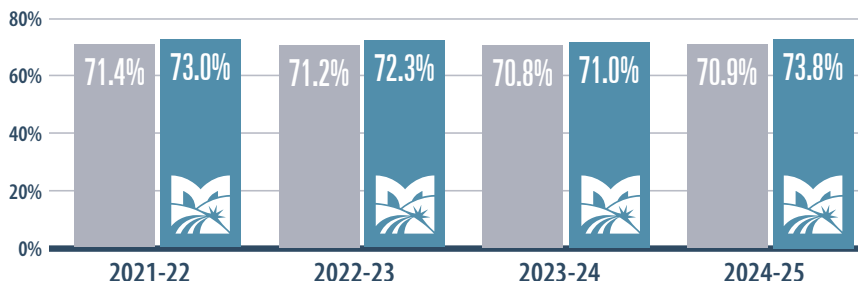
WA State Average District Average



**Performance Target:** 75% of students in grades 3-8 and 10 will show foundational grade level knowledge/skills or above as measured by the SBA in Math by Spring of 2028-29.

## SBA Achievement – ELA

WA State Average District Average



**Performance Target:** 80% of students in grades 3-8 and 10 will show foundational grade level knowledge/skills or above in ELA as measured by the SBA by Spring of 2028-29.

## MONROE LEADS THE WAY IN STUDENT GROWTH!



From 2023–24 to 2024–25, Monroe School District saw the **highest growth in students showing grade level proficiency** on Math and ELA state assessments among all Snohomish County districts. In ELA, our scores increased by **3.1%**, tying with Snohomish School District for the top growth rate. In Math, we grew by **3.6%**, tying with Lake Stevens School District for the highest increase.

These gains reflect the hard work and dedication of our students, staff, and families working together. As we continue to focus on these areas, we look forward to building on this momentum and seeing even more growth in the years ahead.

# FACILITY IMPROVEMENT PLANNING UPDATE

In the last two years, we have consistently heard from the greater community the need for improved facilities. In response, a Facility Advisory Committee (FAC) was created in late 2024, bringing together 26 staff members, parents, and community representatives to review needs and establish priorities for the most urgent facility improvements.

On August 11, the FAC presented its recommendation to the school board for these improvements. These projects would require funding through a voter-approved ballot measure.



## This recommendation included the following projects:

- Build a new **Sky Valley Education Center**
- Upgrade schools across the district to better support **special education** programming
- Modernize the original two-story wing of **Frank Wagner Elementary** and add a new gym
- Enhance elementary schools district-wide to meet **early learning** needs
- Modernize and expand the old gym/cafeteria at **Salem Woods Elementary**, add classrooms to replace portables, and update the playground to ensure ADA accessibility
- Complete major **maintenance and safety improvements** across the district

Since then, the school board has been considering whether to adopt the Facility Advisory Committee's recommendations as presented or make adjustments. Over the past two months, they have held multiple workshops and meetings on this topic.

To help inform their decision, 19 focus groups were held in early August with staff, families, and community members. A summary of the community's input, along with recommendations regarding a potential bond measure, was shared with the board during a workshop on Monday, September 8.

At the September 15 special board meeting, board members reviewed progress to date and continued their discussions, leaning toward accepting the committee's recommendations with some additions, including improvements to Memorial Field, Marshall Field, and the old Park Place baseball field (located on 160th St SE and 178th Ave SE) in downtown Monroe. The board continued these discussions at their regular meeting on September 29.

## VIDEO RECORDINGS OF THESE MEETINGS CAN BE FOUND ON OUR YOUTUBE CHANNEL:

[www.youtube.com/@  
MonroeSchoolDistrictWA](https://www.youtube.com/@MonroeSchoolDistrictWA)



## NEXT STEPS

The board will next consider adopting a formal resolution outlining facility improvement projects, estimated costs, and authorization of a bond measure for the ballot.

For more information about the Facility Advisory Committee and to view its full recommendations, visit the Facility Advisory Committee webpage: [www.monroe.wednet.edu/FAC](http://www.monroe.wednet.edu/FAC)



## TIMELINE OF KEY EVENTS

### AUGUST 11

Facility Advisory Committee (26 staff, parents, and community members) presented recommendations for district-wide facility improvements to the school board.

### AUGUST 11-12

19 focus groups with staff, families, and community members gathered input on the recommendations.

### SEPTEMBER 8

Community input and bond recommendations shared with the board during a workshop.

### SEPTEMBER 15

Special board meeting: board directors leaned toward adopting the committee's recommendations, with additions such as improvements to Memorial and Marshall Fields.

### SEPTEMBER 29

Regular board meeting: continued discussions and consideration of draft bond resolution outlining projects, costs, and a potential bond measure for the ballot.

### OCTOBER 13

Regular board meeting, where the board will consider adopting a formal resolution.

# DELIVERING ON OUR PROMISE: 2015 BOND PROJECTS COMPLETED

In 2015, Monroe voters showed incredible support for our schools with 62.74% voting “Yes” on a \$110.9 million Capital Projects Bond. With additional state and local funding, the district invested nearly \$132 million to improve learning spaces and safety across our schools.

*Thanks to our community's support, every project promised in the 2015 Bond was completed by the end of 2022—fulfilling our commitment to the Monroe community.*



## Monroe High School Ball Fields

*Completed March 2017*

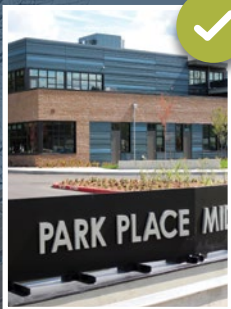
The addition of all-weather turf ball fields at Monroe High School provided year-round baseball and fastpitch facilities for MHS students and the community.



## Hidden River Middle School Expansion

*Completed in December 2019*

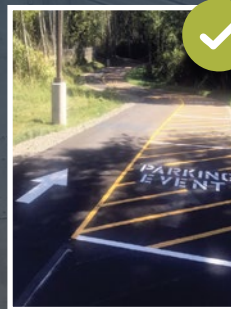
The expansion of Hidden River Middle School added 23,653 square feet of new learning and community spaces, including science and art classrooms/labs, a modern commons, and upgraded turf athletic fields and a rubberized jogging track.



## Park Place Middle School Modernization

*Completed September 2018*

The modernization of Park Place Middle School transformed the 1974 campus into an expanded, modern, secure, collaborative learning environment for Monroe students.



## Facility Improvements & Maintenance Projects

*Completed in 2022*

The most urgent facility improvements and maintenance projects district-wide were completed to enhance safety, efficiency, and learning environments while protecting the community's long-term investment in its schools. Projects included roof replacements, asphalt resurfacing, flooring replacement, and replacement of leaking windows.



## Frank Wagner Elementary Modernization

*Completed September 2018*

The modernization & expansion of Frank Wagner Elementary added classrooms, a new library and makerspace, improved safety & security, and modernized spaces for learning.



## Salem Woods Elementary Modernization

*Completed September 2018*

The modernization of Salem Woods Elementary replaced the aging 1980 campus with a secure, two-story facility featuring 24 classrooms, collaborative learning spaces, and upgraded infrastructure.

## WHAT ARE SCHOOL BONDS?

School districts rely on voter-approved bonds to fund major construction and facility improvements—things like rebuilding schools, adding classrooms, upgrading safety systems, and improving athletic fields.

Unlike school levies, which fund day-to-day operations (teachers, staff, and programs), bonds are for the “bricks and mortar” — big projects that keep schools safe, modern, and built to serve students well into the future.

A huge thank-you to Monroe voters for investing in safe, modern, and inspiring learning environments for today's students and generations to come!

Learn more about the completed projects here:  
[www.monroe.wednet.edu/2015-bond](http://www.monroe.wednet.edu/2015-bond)





## Monroe School District 103

14692 179th Avenue SE  
Monroe, WA 98272

T 360.804.2500  
www.monroe.wednet.edu

## POSTAL CUSTOMER ECRWSS

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Monroe, WA  
Permit #20

# Are you 65 or older and living within the Monroe School District boundaries? Then Cat Tracks Club membership is for you!

In appreciation of your many years of generously supporting our students and schools, the senior citizens of our community are invited to join our Cat Tracks Club!

As a Cat Tracks member, senior citizens receive **FREE admission** to attend home athletic events (regular season only, playoffs not included) and drama productions held at Monroe High School.



**LEARN MORE AND APPLY TODAY:**  
[www.monroe.wednet.edu/community/cat-tracks-club](http://www.monroe.wednet.edu/community/cat-tracks-club)

## STAY CONNECTED!

Stay up to date on what's happening in Monroe School District by subscribing to the **digital version** of MSD Connected. You'll get the newsletter delivered straight to your inbox twice a month, filled with updates, stories, and important information you won't want to miss!

## SIGN UP TODAY!



[www.monroe.wednet.edu/CommunityNewsletter](http://www.monroe.wednet.edu/CommunityNewsletter)

**Notice of Non-Discrimination:** The Monroe School District does not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, creed, religion, color, national origin, age, honorably discharged veteran or military status, sexual orientation including gender expression or identity, the presence of any sensory, mental, or physical disability, or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal by a person with a disability in its programs and activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following employees have been designated to handle questions and complaints of alleged discrimination:

**Title IX/Civil Rights Compliance Coordinator:** Dan Johnston, 360-804-2539, [johnstond@monroe.wednet.edu](mailto:johnstond@monroe.wednet.edu)

**Section 504 Coordinator:** David Paratore, 360-804-2609, [paratore@monroe.wednet.edu](mailto:paratore@monroe.wednet.edu)

**ADA and Title IX Coordinator:** Cassandra Bunney, (360) 804-2532, [bunney@monroe.wednet.edu](mailto:bunney@monroe.wednet.edu)

Title IX inquiries may also be directed toward the U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights (OCR): <https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/index.html>