

2026 Technology Levy

Levy Advisory Committee: Final Recommendation

September 30, 2025

Background

The Issaquah School District relies on local levy funding to provide modern technology tools, infrastructure, and support for students and staff. State and federal funding do not cover the costs of 1:1 devices, classroom instructional technology, professional development, or cybersecurity protections.

The district's current levy sustains a universal 1:1 program for grades 3–12, provides staff laptops and shared K–2 devices, and funds technology infrastructure. The 2026 renewal continues these core investments while expanding capacity in innovation, safety, and digital equity.

Committee Process and Feedback

- The committee conducted a full review of the Technology Levy covering the current levy investments (1:1 devices, infrastructure, software, and professional development) and new initiatives under consideration: AI for Education, Data Warehouse, WiFi on Buses, Crisis Alert Safety Platform, Digital Security Testing/Training, and Device Modernization.
- Table exercises and polling asked members to compare the district-provided 1:1 device model against a hybrid bring-your-own-device (BYOD) option and to rank the importance of the new initiatives.
- Members raised questions about reliability, equity, and cybersecurity when comparing 1:1 to BYOD. They also asked how emerging tools like AI and crisis alert systems would be introduced and sustained.

Feedback

- **1:1 Device Program**
District-provided devices received much stronger support than BYOD, reflecting concerns about equity, consistency, and instructional time.
- **High Priorities**
Device modernization, digital security testing/training, and a centralized data warehouse received the highest ratings and were viewed as critical to sustaining reliability and protecting student data.
- **Moderate Priorities**
AI for Education and the Crisis Alert Safety Platform were positively received but

ranked lower, with members noting the need for phased, thoughtful rollout.

- **Lowest Priority**

WiFi on Buses ranked lowest, with members recommending those funds be redirected to higher-impact technology needs such as device upgrades.

Rationale

The Technology Levy advances the district's Strategic Plan priorities by:

- Ensuring equitable access to devices and digital learning resources.
- Providing secure and reliable infrastructure to support instruction and operations.
- Building staff capacity through professional development and emerging tools.
- Strengthening student safety with crisis communication platforms and cybersecurity.
- Maintaining the combined tax rate at ~\$3.17 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation while investing in future-ready learning.

Committee Recommendation

The Levy Advisory Committee recommends including a Technology Levy in the February 2026 ballot package, structured as:

- Four-year levy (2027–2030) at approximately \$24.9M–\$26.7M annually (~\$0.42 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation).
- Core Investments:
 - Sustain district-provided 1:1 devices (grades 3–12, staff laptops, shared K–2).
 - Maintain instructional technology infrastructure, software, and professional development.
 - Expand cybersecurity through annual testing, training, and advanced threat detection.
- Refined New Initiatives:
 - **AI for Education**
Secure, district-managed instructional tools and training.
 - **Data Warehouse**
Centralized platform for real-time instructional and operational analytics.
 - **Crisis Alert Safety Platform**
Districtwide communication system for emergencies.

- **Device Modernization**
Prioritized to ensure reliability and instructional alignment.

Levy Amounts and Estimated Tax Rates

**Recommended Funding
Amounts (in \$1,000's)**

Year	Technology Levy
2027	24,866
2028	25,379
2029	26,006
2030	26,658

Estimated Resulting Tax Rates

Year	Technology Levy
2027	\$ 0.43
2028	\$ 0.41
2029	\$ 0.40
2030	\$ 0.40

Closing Statement

The Levy Advisory Committee concludes that the Technology Levy is an essential renewal measure for the 2026 ballot. It provides students and staff with reliable access to devices, maintains modern infrastructure, expands cybersecurity protections, and introduces carefully selected innovations aligned with district priorities.

By keeping the combined local tax rate stable at ~\$3.17 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation, the proposal balances equity, innovation, and fiscal responsibility. The Committee strongly recommends forwarding this Technology Levy to the Superintendent and Board of Directors for inclusion on the February 2026 ballot.

Appendix A – Current Operations

Importance	Sum of 2027-28	Sum of 2028-29	Sum of 2029-30	Sum of 2030-31
Critical	\$ 12,882,700	\$ 13,294,916	\$ 13,721,183	\$ 14,162,006
Medium	\$ 7,081,150	\$ 7,226,535	\$ 7,376,280	\$ 7,530,519
High	\$ 3,167,550	\$ 3,183,527	\$ 3,199,982	\$ 3,216,932
Low	\$ 170,000	\$ 173,500	\$ 177,175	\$ 181,034
Grand Total	\$ 23,301,400	\$ 23,878,478	\$ 24,474,620	\$ 25,090,490

Type	Sum of 2027-28	Sum of 2028-29	Sum of 2029-30	Sum of 2030-31
Salaries	\$ 10,289,700	\$ 10,598,391	\$ 10,916,343	\$ 11,243,833
ProfDev	\$ 5,101,150	\$ 5,246,535	\$ 5,396,280	\$ 5,550,519
Hardware	\$ 4,210,000	\$ 4,210,000	\$ 4,210,000	\$ 4,210,000
HW/SW	\$ 1,403,750	\$ 1,453,188	\$ 1,505,097	\$ 1,559,602
Software	\$ 1,265,300	\$ 1,312,119	\$ 1,361,108	\$ 1,412,371
Subscription	\$ 966,500	\$ 993,245	\$ 1,020,792	\$ 1,049,166
Services	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000
(blank)	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,000
Grand Total	\$ 23,301,400	\$ 23,878,478	\$ 24,474,620	\$ 25,090,490

Roll-Up	Sum of 2027-28	Sum of 2028-29	Sum of 2029-30	Sum of 2030-31
Classroom Technology	\$3,735,000	\$3,738,600	\$3,742,308	\$3,746,127
Hardware	\$3,400,000	\$3,400,000	\$3,400,000	\$3,400,000
Subscription	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000
HW/SW	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000
Software	\$120,000	\$123,600	\$127,308	\$131,127
HW/SW/SUB	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000
District Wide	\$5,370,100	\$5,529,853	\$5,694,399	\$5,863,881
Salaries	\$5,325,100	\$5,484,853	\$5,649,399	\$5,818,881
ProfDev	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$30,000
Services	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000
School Support	\$10,035,750	\$10,330,073	\$10,633,224	\$10,945,471
Salaries	\$4,964,600	\$5,113,538	\$5,266,944	\$5,424,952
ProfDev	\$5,071,150	\$5,216,535	\$5,366,280	\$5,520,519
District Infrastructure	\$2,275,700	\$2,359,406	\$2,447,010	\$2,538,698
Hardware	\$85,000	\$85,000	\$85,000	\$85,000
Subscription	\$503,950	\$518,319	\$533,118	\$548,362
Services	\$35,000	\$35,000	\$35,000	\$35,000
HW/SW	\$1,253,750	\$1,303,188	\$1,355,097	\$1,409,602
Software	\$398,000	\$417,900	\$438,795	\$460,735
Software/Subscriptions	\$1,159,850	\$1,195,546	\$1,232,679	\$1,271,313
Subscription	\$412,550	\$424,927	\$437,674	\$450,805
Software	\$747,300	\$770,619	\$795,005	\$820,509
School Infrastructure	\$725,000	\$725,000	\$725,000	\$725,000
Hardware	\$725,000	\$725,000	\$725,000	\$725,000
Grand Total	\$23,301,400	\$23,878,478	\$24,474,620	\$25,090,490

Appendix B – New Initiatives

Description	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	Importance
MS Co-pilot licenses for staff	\$93,000	\$155,000	\$160,000	\$170,000	High
AI licenses for Teachers and Students	\$157,500	\$165,375	\$173,644	\$182,326	High
Used for testing and educating staff on digital security (phishing, Ransomware)	\$78,750	\$82,688	\$86,822	\$91,163	Critical
The development of a data warehouse and visualizations	\$250,000	\$262,500	\$275,625	\$289,406	Medium
We will evaluate and modernize the devices used by students and staff, ensuring they support current and emerging instructional and operational needs.	\$735,000	\$585,000	\$585,000	\$585,000	Medium
Support the exploration, piloting, and integration of emerging digital tools and curriculum to enhance teaching and learning across all grade levels.	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$250,000	Medium
	\$1,564,250	\$1,500,563	\$1,531,091	\$1,567,895	