

TOGETHER WE **INSPIRE** **ACHIEVE** **THRIVE**



IN THIS ISSUE

FINDING PASSION IN
EDUCATION: HOW EVERETT
PUBLIC SCHOOLS HELPED A
2025 GRADUATE THRIVE

2026 SCHOOL
CONSTRUCTION BOND
AND EDUCATION LEVY
ON FEBRUARY 10 BALLOT

YOUR TAX DOLLARS AT
WORK: PROGRESS YOU
CAN SEE IN OUR SCHOOLS



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PUBLIC
SCHOOLS®**

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SUPERINTENDENT MESSAGE

Dear Everett Public Schools community,

I am very pleased to share some remarkable news that reflects the heart of our district's vision to inspire, achieve, and thrive. Everett Public Schools reached a historic milestone: our four-year, on-time graduation rate for the Class of 2025 reached 96.3%, the highest in district history. This achievement keeps Everett among the top districts in Washington and demonstrates the strength, perseverance, and shared commitment of our entire community.

This success is the result of the collective efforts of our educators, administrators, staff, students, and families who work together each day to open doors of opportunity for every learner.

Behind every diploma is a story of inspiration. In this newsletter, you will meet one of our recent graduates, Joshua Iraola-Cortes, who is thriving and credits his success to his time in Everett Public Schools. His story represents the outcomes we strive for, that students are prepared for their next steps in education, career, and life.

As we continue to support the success of every student, we want to ensure our schools and programs have the staffing, resources, and facilities they need. That leads me to sharing information with you about the upcoming 2026 School Construction Bond and Education Levy. The Special Election is February 10, 2026.

The School Construction Bond would fund projects to address overcrowding, replace aging facilities, support safety improvements and ongoing maintenance, and build new spaces for STEM and vocational learning to expand hands-on opportunities.

The renewal of the Education Levy would continue local funding for staffing, services, and programs that the state does not fully cover. The levy makes up about 15% of the district's annual budget.

Thank you to our community for your ongoing support for our students, staff, and families.

Wishing everyone a happy holiday season!

Be safe and be well,

Dr. Ian B. Saltzman
Superintendent



WHO WE ARE

Students in Everett Public Schools consistently outperform the state average in every tested subject and grade level.



GRADUATION RATE
96.3%
*Last updated in 2025
ONE OF THE HIGHEST IN THE STATE!



White	39.9%
Hispanic/Latino of any race(s)	21.8%
Asian	21.6%
Two or more races	9.6%
Black/African American	5.0%
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	1.6%
American Indian/Alaska Native	0.5%

TOGETHER WE
INSPIRE ACHIEVE THRIVE



20,600+
STUDENTS SERVED
ACROSS 27 SCHOOLS

Everett Public Schools district boundaries include the cities of Everett and Mill Creek, as well as portions of unincorporated Snohomish County.

17,000+

DAILY BUS RIDERS

15,160
MEALS SERVED DAILY

14.7%

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES RECEIVING SUPPORT

19.3%

MULTILINGUAL LEARNERS

FINDING PASSION IN EDUCATION: HOW EVERETT PUBLIC SCHOOLS HELPED JOSHUA IRAOLA-CORTES **THRIVE**

For Joshua Iraola-Cortes, Everett Public Schools (EPS) is more than a place to learn: it is where he found his voice, confidence, and purpose. From his first day at Madison Elementary to walking across the stage as a Cascade High School (CHS) graduate in 2025, his story is one of growth and gratitude for a district he says, “truly cares about its students.”



That same care is reflected in a historic milestone for EPS. The Class of 2025 achieved a four-year, on-time graduation rate of 96.3%, the highest in district history. Like Iraola-Cortes, each graduate's story shows the district's commitment to helping every student reach their full potential.

Iraola-Cortes joined EPS in 2017 at Madison Elementary as a fifth grader. Performing at the school's multicultural night showed him how supportive his new community was.

“That’s where I really began to become outgoing,” he recalled. “I wasn’t always front and center, but I was willing to try.”

“This district opens doors for every kind of student. They don’t just teach you academics; they teach you how to believe in yourself.”

At Evergreen Middle School, Iraola-Cortes joined more school productions, which he said propelled his confidence. Even though the COVID-19 pandemic impacted these years, he carried forward with a sense of connection.

As a junior at CHS, Iraola-Cortes helped lead the annual food drive. That year, his team collected 18 carts of food in just two days.

“We’d see their reactions... including hugs and tears,” he said. “One little girl said, ‘Look, mom, we have cereal!’ It was heart touching and humbling.”

He went on to lead the food drive a second time, serve as ASB Treasurer, and help organize countless student initiatives. Iraola-Cortes reflects on the diverse and welcoming community at his high school.

“The culture at CHS is so rich,” he said. “You always see people from different backgrounds mixing and connecting.”

Iraola-Cortes valued the variety of clubs and organizations available to students.

He said these opportunities created an environment where every student could find their place and pursue their passions.

He served on both the Capital Bond Planning Committee and the Artificial Intelligence Committee.

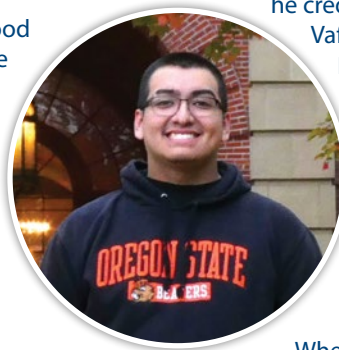
“The biggest takeaway from the district committees was the amount of value they have for the input of the students and community,” he said. “I didn’t have to feel apprehensive about sharing my opinions because I knew there was a place for everyone to share.”

In his time with EPS, Iraola-Cortes found support from educators who embodied the district’s mission. Among many others, he credits educators like Kathryn Vafaezadeh, Kelly Rogers, and Bridget McKay for his success.

“They all believed in me when I didn’t believe in myself,” he said.

Now studying public health and education at Oregon State University, Iraola-Cortes hopes to give back as a STEM educator.

When asked what he would tell families about EPS, Iraola-Cortes said, “This district opens doors for every kind of student. They don’t just teach you academics; they teach you how to believe in yourself.”

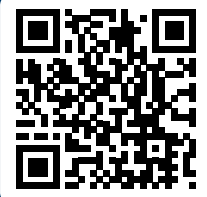


International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Program



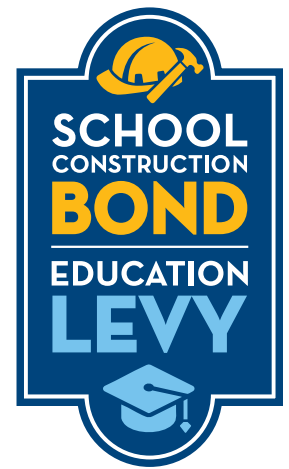
Diploma Programme
Programme du diplôme
Programa del Diploma

Cascade High School is now a Candidate School for the International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Program. The school is working toward authorization as an IB World School, joining more than 4,000 schools worldwide that share a common philosophy: a commitment to high-quality, challenging, and international education. This commitment is one that both CHS and Everett Public Schools believe is essential for our students.



Visit www.everettsd.org/IB to learn more or scan the QR code

2026 SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION BOND AND EDUCATION LEVY ON FEBRUARY 10 BALLOT



Everett Public Schools is asking our community to consider **two measures on the February 10, 2026, ballot**: a School Construction Bond and a Replacement Education Levy. Together, these measures would fund school facility improvements and continue local funding for staff, programs, and day-to-day operations not fully covered by the state.

Developed through a community-led process of parents, students, staff, and residents, the **School Construction Bond (Proposition 1)** would address limited classroom space, aging buildings, and safety needs. The proposal includes building a new elementary school and adding 12 permanent classrooms to reduce overcrowding. It would also rebuild Lowell Elementary School, which no longer meets current safety or learning standards.

At Cascade High School, the bond would replace Building 2 with a new cafeteria, library, and performing arts space, while Everett High School's vocational building would be modernized to support hands-on learning. Districtwide improvements would include safety and security upgrades, roof and heating system replacements, and updates to playgrounds and athletic fields.

The **Replacement Education Levy (Proposition 2)** is a renewal measure, not a new tax, that continues funding for staffing, programs, and services not fully funded by the state. Levy funds make up about 15% of the district's annual budget and help pay for classroom and health room staff, counselors, paraeducators, and custodians.

The levy also supports programs such as STEM, arts, and athletics, and covers daily operating costs like classroom materials, utilities, and maintenance.

For more information please visit
www.everettsd.org/bond-levy-2026.



Architectural rendering of proposed Elementary School #19



Architectural rendering of proposed Building #2 at Cascade High



Current photo of Lowell Elementary, built in 1951.



Families and
community members
are invited to learn
more at upcoming
Let's Connect events

JAN. 20
6-7:30 p.m. **CASCADE HIGH SCHOOL
CAFETERIA**

JAN. 21
6-7:30 p.m. **EVERETT HIGH SCHOOL
CAFETERIA**

JAN. 28
6-7:30 p.m. **HEATHERWOOD MIDDLE
SCHOOL CAFETERIA**



Thank you voters for approving the 2022 Capital Levy, which made these important school improvements possible. In this update, we are highlighting progress on three major projects funded by the 2022 Capital Levy.

Jackson Elementary interior rendering

Jackson Elementary

Construction of the new Jackson Elementary School is well underway. The new school is on schedule to open in **August 2026**, then in summer 2026 we will begin phase two to remove the old building, build the new gym and stage, and create a new parent drop-off zone and parking lot. The full project is anticipated to be completed by **summer 2027**.



Jackson Elementary construction progress

Scan the QR codes to view 3D renderings of the new school.



3D VIEW
MAIN LEVEL



3D VIEW
2ND LEVEL



3D VIEW
LIBRARY

Madison Elementary

Planning for the new Madison Elementary School is moving forward, and the team is wrapping up the early design work. Construction is scheduled to begin in spring 2027, with students moving in by summer 2028.

Everett High School Auditorium

Work is progressing on the Everett High School Auditorium project as the early design phase nears completion. The team will soon begin detailed construction planning. Construction is scheduled to begin in summer 2027 and the project is anticipated to be completed in summer 2028.



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Why are you receiving this newsletter? Many residents within the school district do not have school-age children in Everett Public Schools. The purpose of this publication, therefore, is to let those members of the community know about the programs and activities taking place in the district. This publication is not mailed using an address list. Instead, to greatly reduce the cost of postage, we use a bulk mailing process that has it delivered to every residential customer on each letter carrier's route.

KINDERGARTEN ENROLLMENT

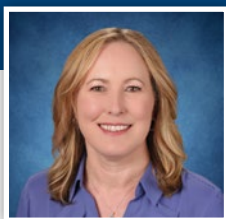
**Will your child be 5 years old
by August 31, 2026?**

Kindergarten enrollment for the 2026-27 school year opens on Monday, March 2, 2026. Scan the QR code for more information and to complete the enrollment process! We are excited to meet our newest learners!

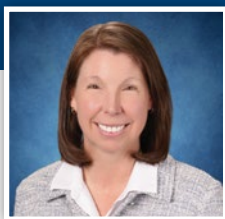


SCHOOL BOARD

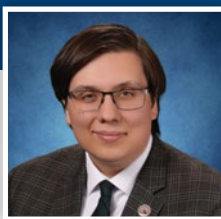
We are proud to announce the Everett Public Schools Board has been awarded the prestigious designation of "Board of Distinction" again this year. This honor recognizes the board's exceptional commitment to advancing educational opportunities and supporting the success of all students in our district.



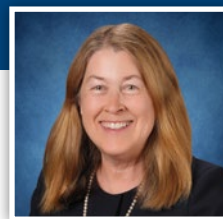
TRACI MITCHELL
DIRECTOR POSITION 4
President



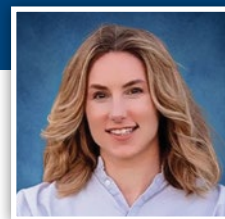
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Vice President



CHARLES ADKINS
DIRECTOR POSITION 5
Parliamentarian



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JACKSON LAURENCE**
DIRECTOR POSITION 3



SHAINA LANGLEY
DIRECTOR POSITION 1

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