A newsletter for the SNOHOMISH SCHOOL DISTRICT *community* / *www.sno.wednet.edu*

SCHOOL VIEWS

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Message from the **Superintendent**



Dear families and friends ~

The Snohomish community takes great pride in its schools. Whether you are new to the district or part of a family with deep roots in our school system, student success and educational quality reflect the strength of our community. That shared commitment is reflected in local support for our schools. On the February 10, 2026, ballot, Snohomish School District has two propositions - both replacement levies, which means the School Board approved to keep the levy rates at the same levels as the past four years. Approved by voters in 2022 and set to expire in 2026, these levies would replace existing funding and continue essential local support for Snohomish schools through 2030. You can learn more about both replacement levies at www.sno.wednet.edu/2026levies.

As we begin planning for the 2026–2027 school year, we're excited to support students and families at every stage - from welcoming new kindergarteners to guiding middle and high school students as they explore new opportunities. Our schools are places where curiosity grows, creativity thrives, and lifelong memories are made.

Families of incoming kindergarten students are invited to our annual Spring Into Kindergarten event from 4-6:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 5, at all district elementary schools. This engaging evening offers a fun introduction to our schools and kindergarten programs. Learn more in this issue of School Views or at www.sno.wednet.edu/springintokindy.

We're also proud to offer a range of early learning opportunities, including Transition to Kindergarten, Developmental Preschool, and Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP), are all designed to support readiness, inclusion, and student success for our youngest learners. Additional information about these programs is available at www.sno.wednet.edu/earlylearningprograms.

New to the Snohomish School District or enrolling a student for 2026–2027? Visit www.sno.wednet.edu/enroll to register online or pick up a paper packet at the elementary, middle, or high school your child will attend.

In addition to planning for the year ahead, I'm pleased to share that the district recently refinanced bonds originally approved in 2008, taking advantage of historically low interest rates. This action will save taxpayers more than $2 million over the next five years, with savings passed directly to our community through lower future tax collections. Combined with previous refinancings, these efforts continue to contribute to a declining overall tax rate for Snohomish School District property owners.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership. Together, we're building a community where every student thrives.

Warm regards,
Dr. Kent Kultgen
Superintendent



Computer Science Week was recently in action at Riverview Elementary! Students recently explored coding by creating dance sequences - testing commands, refining ideas, and bringing their moves to life.

District saves taxpayers more than $2 million in bond refinancing



Snohomish School District has successfully taken advantage of current low bond interest rates to save taxpayers more than $2 million over the next five years. A November 2025 sale of bonds, authorized by the School Board in August, refinanced bonds originally authorized in 2008. The overall borrowing rate for the new bonds sold was very low at 2.88%, compared to the rate of 5.00% on the old bonds.

"This was a great opportunity to demonstrate good fiscal stewardship and save our taxpayers a significant amount of money," said Superintendent Dr. Kent Kultgen. He emphasized that the anticipated savings will go directly to taxpayers through lower future tax collections. "This is money that will now stay in our community and local economy, rather than go to pay interest on bonds."

> **"This was a great opportunity To demonstrate good fiscal stewardship and save our taxpayers a significant amount of money."**
>
> – Dr. Kent Kultgen, Superintendent

These savings are on top of almost $23.7 million saved in 2020 and nearly $820,000 saved in 2021 with the refinancing of an earlier existing bond. These reduced bond collections and stable proposed levy tax rates contribute to an overall declining tax rate for Snohomish School District property owners.

Although there has been substantial volatility in the bond market resulting in interest rates swinging over the past several months, the interest rates on these types of bonds are still relatively low compared to historical rates, said Tom Laufmann, the district's executive director of Business Services.

Like a homeowner with a mortgage, school officials watch interest rates closely. "We have been monitoring the market closely over the past several months and working diligently to refinance these bonds," Laufmann said. "This was our earliest opportunity to refinance these bonds, and we have been monitoring the market closely. We are very happy to be able to lock-in these savings to the district taxpayers in a time of rising costs."

As part of the sale, the district received a strong credit rating of "Aa3" from Moody's Ratings, which helps lower borrowing costs. Moody's cited the district's stable financial position and continued enrollment growth - a positive distinction at a time when many Washington school districts are experiencing financial strain. This strong rating reflects Snohomish School District's solid fiscal management and stability.

Bonds are similar to a home mortgage. Money is borrowed and paid back over time with interest. Typically, bonds are used to pay for new school construction and/or large renovations of existing facilities. The Snohomish School District's 2004 $141.5 million school construction bond and 2008 $261.6 million school construction bond will expire in 2029/2030. Those projects included Little Cedars Elementary, Machias Elementary, Riverview Elementary, Centennial Middle School, Valley View Middle School, Parkway Campus, Glacier Peak High School, Snohomish High School, and the Snohomish Aquatic Center.

"This refinancing is one more way to demonstrate to our community our commitment to fiscal stewardship of the funds entrusted to us," Kultgen said.

Kindergarten and new student *registration information*



Información de inscripción para kindergarten y nuevos estudiantes

Spring Into Kindergarten
Mark your calendars for our district's Spring Into Kindergarten event. All 2026-2027 kindergarten families and students are highly encouraged to attend. **Spring Into Kindergarten will be held on Thursday, March 5, from 4–6:30 p.m. at district elementary schools.** Families should complete and return their kindergarten registration paperwork that day. Each school will also have important information available for families (WaKIDS, PTA/PTO/parent organizations, bus transportation, special services and more). For more information, please contact the elementary school your child will attend.

Age of admission
To enter kindergarten a child must be 5-years-old on or before August 31. (Note: Please call your school if information is needed regarding early entrance requirements. Depending on availability, early entrance may be considered only if your child's birthday falls between September 1 and October 31.)

Where to enroll
Your child should be registered before the first day of school at the school nearest your home. Online and paper registration materials are available at www.sno.wednet.edu/enroll. If you are unable to attend Spring Into Kindergarten, please register as soon as possible.

What to bring
Families should complete and return their kindergarten registration paperwork at our Spring Into Kindergarten event. All kindergarten families and students are highly encouraged to attend this event. Spring Into Kindergarten will be held on Thursday, March 5, from 4–6:30 p.m. at district elementary schools. Items you should bring in order to complete the registration packet include:
- Child's birth certificate
- Child's immunization records (child's immunizations must be up-to-date)
- Emergency contact information and phone numbers (at least two)
- Name and phone number of your family doctor
- Parent/guardian phone number at work
- Proof of address
- Any relevant legal documents (parenting plans, protection orders, etc.)
- When registering students who have transferred from another school, please bring the name, address and phone number of the school

Kindergarten paperwork
Online and paper registration materials are available at www.sno.wednet.edu/enroll.

Proof of address (at least one)
Our registration policy requires for any student/parent to show proof of residency before acceptance into our school district. Proof of residency is:
- A current Snohomish County property tax statement (original) with the parent/guardian name and address. The address must be within the service area of your home school.
- A current utility bill (PUD, water, phone landline, etc.)
- Closing documents in home purchase – Documentation from a title company is acceptable.
- *Note:* Home purchase offers, cell phone bills, vehicle registration and driver's licenses are not acceptable forms of proof.



New district students
Have you recently moved to the area? Or, do you have a child who will be new to the Snohomish School District during the 2026-2027 school year? We can't wait for you to join us! Register now at the Snohomish elementary, middle or high school your child will attend.

Evento de inscription
Marque sus calendarios para el Evento de Inscripción para kindergarten de nuestro distrito. Se les anima a todas las familias y estudiantes de Kindergarten en 2026-2027 a asistir. **El evento se llevará a cabo el jueves 5 de marzo, de las 4–6:30 p.m. en las escuelas primarias del distrito.** Las familias deben llenar y regresar los documentos de inscripción para el kindergarten ese día. Cada escuela también tendrá información importante disponible para las familias (WaKIDS, PTA /PTO/organizaciones de padres, transporte en autobuses, servicios especiales y más). Para más información, favor de ponerse en contacto con la escuela primaria a la que asistirá su hijo.

Edad de entrada
Para entrar al kindergarten, el niño/la niña debe tener cinco años de edad al más tardar el 31 de agosto. (Nota: Por favor llame a su escuela si se necesita información sobre los requisitos de ingreso temprano. Según la disponibilidad, el ingreso temprano puede considerarse solo si el cumpleaños de su hijo/a cae entre el 1 de septiembre y el 31 de octubre.)

¿Dónde inscribirse?
Se debe inscribir a su hijo/a antes del primer día de escuela en la escuela más cercana a su hogar. Los materiales de inscripción en línea y en papel están disponibles en www.sno.wednet.edu/enroll. Si no se puede asistir al Evento de inscripción, por favor inscríbelo lo antes posible.

¿Qué traer?
Las familias deben llenar y devolver su papeleo de inscripción de kindergarten en nuestro evento de inscripción en Kindergarten. Se anima a todas las familias y estudiantes de kindergarten a asistir a este evento. El evento de inscripción en kindergarten se llevará a cabo el jueves 5 de marzo, de 4–6:30 p.m. en las escuelas primarias del distrito. Los artículos que usted debe traer para completar el paquete de la inscripción incluyen:
- El acta de nacimiento
- Registro de las vacunas (Las vacunas del niño deben estar al día)
- Información de contacto para urgencia y teléfonos (por lo menos dos)
- Nombre y teléfono del doctor de la familia
- El número del teléfono del trabajo de los padres
- Pruebas de la dirección de la casa
- Cualquier documento legal relevante (planes de crianza, órdenes de protección, etc.)
- Cuando se inscribe estudiantes que han transferido de otra escuela, favor de traer el nombre, la dirección y teléfono de la otra escuela

Documentos para Kindergarten
Los materiales de inscripción en línea y en papel están disponibles en www.sno.wednet.edu/enroll.

Prueba de dirección (por lo menos uno)
Nuestras normas de inscripción requieren que cualquier estudiante/padre/madre muestren una prueba de residencia antes de estar aceptados en nuestro distrito escolar. Una prueba de residencia es:
- Una declaración actual de impuestos de una propiedad del condado de Snohomish (original) con el nombre del padre/madre/guardián y dirección. La dirección tiene que estar dentro del área de servicio de la escuela que les pertenezca.
- Una factura actual de servicios públicos (PUD (luz), agua, teléfono de la casa, etc.)
- Documentos finales de la compra de una vivienda – Documentación de una compañía de título es aceptable.
- *Note:* Los documentos de ofrecer a comprar, las facturas de los teléfonos celulares, la registración vehicular y las licencias de manejar no son aceptables como pruebas.

Estudiantes nuevos al distrito
¿Han mudado recientemente al área? ¿O, tiene a un hijo/a que será nuevo/a al Distrito escolar de Snohomish durante el año escolar 2026-2027? ¡No podemos esperar a que se unan a nosotros! Inscríbase ahora en la escuela primaria, secundaria o preparatoria de Snohomish a la que asistirá su hijo/a.

Learn more at www.sno.wednet.edu/springintokindy or www.sno.wednet.edu/enroll.

Preschool programs help youngest students learn and grow



Programas preescolares para aprender y crecer

Snohomish School District offers several state-funded, free early learning programs designed to support young learners and meet the diverse needs of families. These include Transition to Kindergarten for 4- and 5-year-old children who will be eligible for kindergarten after September 2026 and may have limited access to preschool, Developmental Preschool for 3- to 5-year-old students who qualify for special education services, and the Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP) for income-eligible families. Programs vary in eligibility and services, with placements determined through an application and screening process.

Families interested in any district preschool option can learn more by completing the Preschool Inquiry Form at www.sno.wednet.edu/preschoolform, and a district enrollment specialist will follow up.



El distrito escolar de Snohomish ofrece varios programas gratuitos de aprendizaje infantil financiados por el estado, diseñados para apoyar a los s estudiantes más pequeños y satisfacer las diversas necesidades de las familias. Estas incluyen el programa de Transición al Kinder para niños de 4 y 5 años que serán elegibles para el Kinder después de septiembre de 2026 y que tienen acceso limitado a programas preescolares, Educación Preescolar de Desarrollo para estudiantes de 3 a 5 años que cumplan los requisitos para servicios de educación especial, y el Programa de Educación y Asistencia en la Primera Infancia (ECEAP) para familias elegibles con ingresos propios. Los programas varían en elegibilidad y servicios, y las plazas se determinan mediante un proceso de solicitud y selección.

Las familias interesadas en cualquier opción de preescolar del distrito pueden obtener más información rellenando el Formulario de Consulta para Preescolares en www.sno.wednet.edu/preschoolform, y un especialista en matrícula del distrito se encargará de un seguimiento.

Learn more about the district's early learning programs at www.sno.wednet.edu/earlylearningprograms.

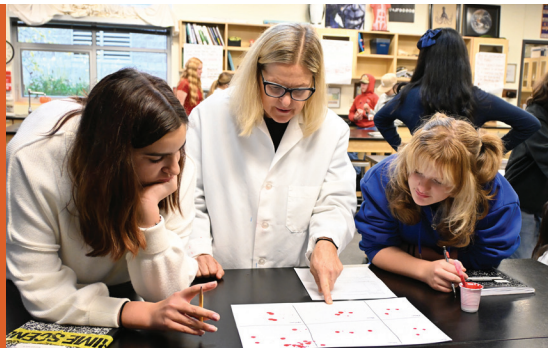
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Election Day
February 10, 2026



The Snohomish School District has two propositions on the February 10, 2026, ballot – both are **replacement levies.** The current levies were approved by voters in 2022 and will expire in 2026. The **Educational Programs and Operations Replacement Levy** and the **Replacement Levy for Technology, Safety, and Facility Improvements** would replace those that are expiring and would continue local levy funding for Snohomish schools through 2030.

Local levies help bridge the gap between what the state funds and what it actually costs to educate Snohomish students - supporting staffing, classroom programs, technology, safety, activities, and facility improvements that benefit every student, every day. **This four-year levy proposal, beginning in 2027, maintains the current total projected tax rates of:**

- **$1.80 for the Educational Programs & Operations Replacement Levy**
- **$0.60 for the Replacement Levy for Technology, Safety, and Facility Improvements**

What would the proposed Educational Programs and Operations (EP&O) Replacement Levy cost?

Year	Estimated levy tax rate	Fixed local levy amount
2027	$1.80*	$36,568,000
2028	$1.80*	$40,589,000
2029	$1.80*	$45,053,000
2030	$1.80*	$49,963,000

What would the proposed Replacement Levy for Technology, Safety and Facility Improvements cost?

Year	Estimated levy tax rate	Fixed local levy amount
2027	$0.60*	$12,189,000
2028	$0.60*	$13,560,000
2029	$0.60*	$15,018,000
2030	$0.60*	$16,669,000

**Note: Tax rates or levy amounts on both charts above in years 2027-2030 represent projected estimates per $1,000 of assessed property value. The school district cannot collect more than the fixed local amounts noted above.*

Did you know the majority of people who live in the Snohomish School District do not have school-aged children? The purpose of School Views is to let our community know about the programs, events and activities happening in their Snohomish School District. To reduce the cost of postage we use a bulk mailing process that delivers to every residential customer on a carrier's route.