

Lake Schools



Photo by Anne Julson



**WINTER
2025**

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Inspiring Excellence
LAKE STEVENS
School District

Creating space. Ensuring safety. Building futures.

Rerunning the bond this February

On Feb. 11, 2025, our district will rerun its school construction bond proposal. **In November, our bond measure narrowly missed the required 60 percent supermajority to pass, even though a majority of residents supported it.**

The bond focuses on **addressing growth and overcrowding, replacing aging facilities, enhancing safety and security, and supporting student well-being and success.**

While the projects and \$314 million bond amount remain unchanged, this proposal has a lower tax impact for property owners thanks to reduced interest rates and a growing taxpayer base in our community.

The projects maximize approximately **\$60 million in state construction assistance funds to minimize the costs to our taxpayers.** These funds are only available to school districts after the successful passage of a school construction bond. In addition, school impact fees paid by developers of new homes will also go towards the projects.

The decision to rerun the bond reflects feedback from the 2024 campaign and reinforces transparency and community priorities.

Impact of a second bond failure

Without funding:

- Overcrowding and safety updates will remain unaddressed.
- Necessary major repairs will draw from General Fund dollars—reducing resources for teachers, staff, and student programs.
- Delays will lead to higher construction costs over time—5 percent escalation each year.

BOND COSTS

The proposed 2025 Bond, totalling \$314 million, would cost property owners **\$38** more per **\$100,000** of assessed value, **ANNUALLY**.

Here's the breakdown of all bond costs from 2025 to 2026 (if the new bond is approved):

2025	2005 bond: \$42 annually, per \$100K
	2016 bond: \$69 annually, per \$100K
	= \$111 per \$100,000 of assessed value, annually
2026	2005 bond: paid-in-full
	2016 bond: \$69 annually, per \$100K
	2025 bond: \$80 annually, per \$100K
\$38 difference	
= \$149 per \$100,000 of assessed value, annually	



To find your home's assessed value, visit the Snohomish County Assessor's website.

What's changed?



Interest rates have decreased

Community growth has expanded the number of taxpayers



What this means:



Less taxpayer impact



2005 bond paid-in-full in 2025

What's the same?

Our needs. Our projects.
Our bond amount, \$314 million.



Addressing growth



Replacing aging facilities



Safety and security



Supporting student well-being and success

Community growth is

NOT STOPPING!



AT LEAST
2,000
new homes



EVERY **10** new homes
GENERATE APPROXIMATELY
7 CHILDREN
MORE THAN HALF AT the elementary-age

13,000 NEW LSSD residents
are projected
IN THE NEXT **5** YEARS

For more details on the bond proposal and specific projects, including answers to frequently asked questions, visit:

www.lkstevens.wednet.edu/bond





Current and future growth



Safe and secure schools



Replacing aging facilities



PE and community athletics improvements

NEW Elementary School #8*

- Estimated cost: \$76.6M
- State contribution: \$7.9M

NEW Secondary Innovative Learning Center*

- Estimated cost: \$27.7M
- State contribution: None

Lake Stevens Middle School growth and modernization*

- Estimated cost: \$98.8M
- State contribution: \$27.3M

Skyline growth and modernization*

- Estimated cost: \$72.3M
- State contribution: \$12.3M

Glenwood growth and modernization*

- Estimated cost: \$70.7M
- State contribution: \$12.3M

* Major expansion/improvement and additional student capacity

Elementary Schools

- NEW Elementary #8***
- Glenwood***
- Highland
- Hillcrest
- Mt. Pilchuck
- Skyline***
- Stevens Creek
- Sunnycrest

Middle Schools

- Lake Stevens***
- North Lake

Mid High School

- Cavelero

High School

- Lake Stevens

Specialized Programs

- Early Learning Center
- HomeLink
- NEW Secondary Innovative Learning Center***
- Transitions



LAKE STEVENS SCHOOLS

Join us as we celebrate our schools

February is the season of love, and we're excited to kick off our "I Love Lake Stevens Schools" campaign! This special initiative is all about celebrating the amazing students, dedicated employees, and incredible community partners who make our schools such a special place.

We're inviting everyone in our community to join in the fun—share your love for our schools by participating in activities, leaving a "Love Note," and following the campaign on our website and social media. Together, let's show why Lake Stevens Schools are truly the heart of our community.

To get started, visit:

www.lkstevens.wednet.edu/love

FIVE REASONS TO LOVE LAKE STEVENS SCHOOLS

- 1 We're the heart of the community:** As the largest employer in the City of Lake Stevens, we provide opportunities and support for thousands of families and residents.
- 2 Amazing opportunities for every student:** From challenging academic programs to hands-on Career & Technical Education options, there's something for everyone. Our students also shine in extracurriculars like award-winning robotics, music, drama, and state champion athletics. Families move to Lake Stevens because of our excellent schools.
- 3 Proud alumni:** Our dedicated employees include more than 125 Lake Stevens High School alumni—showing their commitment to giving back to the community that helped shape them.
- 4 A tradition of excellence:** With strong community support and a focus on student success, Lake Stevens Schools have become a source of pride for our entire community.
- 5 A place to belong:** Our schools are built on a foundation of connection and support, creating spaces where every student can thrive. From small classroom communities to districtwide events and activities, our students feel valued and ready to succeed in life after high school.

CONGRATULATIONS 4A STATE CHAMPIONS

LAKE STEVENS HIGH SCHOOL
GIRLS SOCCER

Student athletes shine in fall sports season

Our student athletes wrapped up an impressive fall sports season—showcasing not only their talent and determination on the field, but also their commitment to excellence in the classroom.

Congratulations to all of our teams and coaches for their hard work, dedication, and teamwork this season. A heartfelt thank-you also goes out to their families for their encouragement, and to our enthusiastic fans for creating an incredible atmosphere of support!



2024

FALL ATHLETICS BY THE NUMBERS

482+

STUDENT ATHLETES

9

 SPORTS
OFFERED

3

 WESCO 4A
CHAMPIONS

- ▶ FOOTBALL
- ▶ SOCCER
- ▶ VOLLEYBALL

Career and Technical Education in Lake Stevens Schools



More than 68 students from Cavellero Mid High School and Lake Stevens High School gathered for the annual Safeway Takeover hosted by our Lake Stevens DECA chapter! Students stepped into the roles of grocery store employees—gaining hands-on experience across multiple departments and learning the ins and outs of the retail world.

Career and Technical Education (CTE) is essential in preparing Lake Stevens students for high-wage, high-skill, and high-demand careers. With programs spanning our middle schools, mid high school, and high school, CTE provides students with rigorous, industry-aligned courses that explore multiple career pathways. Many classes also offer dual credit opportunities, allowing students to earn college credit while in high school.

CTE programs are supported by dedicated educators and community advisory committees focused on equipping students with the skills and experiences needed for success after high school—whether entering the workforce, military, technical school, or college. We're proud of our students' achievements in CTE and encourage families to learn more about these impactful programs.



CAREER & TECHNICAL EDUCATION

CAREER PATHWAY EXPLORATION:

From health sciences to engineering, students explore diverse career paths aligned with their interests and future goals.

COLLEGE CREDIT OPPORTUNITIES:

Many CTE courses offer dual credit, enabling students to earn college credit while fulfilling high school requirements.

HANDS-ON LEARNING:

Students gain practical experience in state-of-the-art labs and classrooms, bridging the gap between theory and real-world application.



ON-THE-JOB TRAINING:

Industry partnerships provide internships, apprenticeships, and workplace simulations that prepare students for high-demand careers.



Kindergarten enrollment for next school year begins in March

Kindergarten enrollment for the 2025-26 school year begins in March! Each elementary school will share kindergarten information on its website in mid-March and enrollment packets will be available on the school district website and at all elementary schools and at the Educational Services Center.

Children must be five-years-old by Aug. 31, 2025 to enroll in kindergarten for the 2025-26 school year. When enrolling your child, please bring the completed enrollment packet, an official copy of the child's birth certificate, proof of immunization, and proof of residence in Lake Stevens School District. Enrollment is limited to those students who live within school district boundaries.

In mid-August, we'll host our annual three-day Ready for Kindergarten event at each elementary school. Ready for Kindergarten offers a safe and welcoming introduction to elementary school for families and students, relieving many first-day anxieties (for students and their caregivers!). Children must be enrolled in kindergarten in Lake Stevens School District to participate. More information will be shared this spring.



Class of 2038

Kindergarten enrollment for the 2025-26 school year begins

MARCH

Learn more at:

www.lkstevens.wednet.edu/kindergarten



P-5 FAMILY CONFERENCES ARE MARCH 3 TO 6

Family conferences for preschool through fifth-grade are Monday, March 3 through Thursday, March 6. Families will receive information about conferences from their child's school or teacher(s).

- Elementary school students will be released 2.5 hours early Monday through Thursday. Lunch will be served at school as normal.
- There will be no preschool during conference week. Middle school students, mid high and high school students have a normal schedule the week of March 3.
- Friday, March 7 is a standard Friday schedule with an 85-minute early release.



Be prepared for inclement weather

When winter weather hits, our top priority is the safety of students and staff. Our district's geography is taken into account when the decision is made. One part of our area may be clear while other areas are struggling with snow or ice.

How the decision to close schools is made

To help make the best possible decision, weather forecasts are monitored throughout the process. District staff members drive the roads beginning at 3 a.m. checking schools and routes that are frequently impacted and report road conditions to the superintendent by 5 a.m. A decision and announcement is made as quickly as possible. This process sometimes changes based on weather conditions.

Information is shared using these communication channels:

- FlashAlert, www.flashalert.net. Local TV, radio and newspapers pull information from FlashAlert. You can subscribe to receive text and email alerts from FlashAlert.
- Social media
- Text message
- District mobile app
- Email to families
- District website

We do not use our automated calling system for school delays and closures due to weather. If no messages are posted, schools are open and operating on normal schedules.

Delay and closure options

- Schools start on time (no message will be shared).
- Schools start on time with limited bus service or buses on snow routes. Afternoon bus service will also be on snow routes. (See district website for snow routes).
- Schools start two hours late (no a.m. preschool, no out-of-district transportation, no morning Sno-Isle bus).
- Schools are closed (no after school activities, athletics or facility use).
- Options are subject to change depending on weather conditions.

NEW: If a two-hour delay is needed on a Friday, schools will do away with the 85-minute early release and shift to a normal (M-TH) dismissal time.

Message from Your Superintendent

Dear Lake Stevens Community,

As we close out the first month of this new year, I can't help but reflect on the incredible accomplishments we've already seen. While the calendar year may have just started, our educational journey began in September, and this past semester has been a shining example of the dedication and perseverance of our students. I am so proud of their achievements and deeply grateful for the unwavering support of our employees, families and community.

This fall, we celebrated a historic milestone—for the first time ever, the Lake Stevens High School Girls Soccer team brought home the 4A State Championship! Congratulations to Coach Ford and his talented team for this remarkable achievement. I am equally proud of our cross country, girls swim and dive, volleyball, football, and boys tennis teams. These athletes continue to shine in WESCO 4A and beyond, demonstrating not only their incredible skill but also the teamwork, grit, and camaraderie that will carry them far in life.

Our community's generosity was also on full display over the holiday season. Students and staff came together once again to donate an astounding amount of food, gifts, and funds to support local families and organizations. This spirit of giving is a hallmark of our district, and I am hopeful it will stay with our students throughout their school years and into adulthood.

Looking ahead, I want to share an important update about our school construction bond, which will be on the ballot for consideration by Lake Stevens voters on Feb. 11, 2025. In November, the bond narrowly missed the 60 percent supermajority required to pass, despite receiving majority support. This bond remains essential to addressing our district's growth, replacing aging facilities, ensuring safe and secure schools, and creating environments where students can thrive. Approving the bond in February will allow us to move forward without delay, ensuring that we continue to meet the needs of all students. You can find more details about the bond in this issue and on our website. As always, we welcome your questions and feedback at 425-335-1500 or tellus@lkstevens.wednet.edu.

Finally, January was School Board Appreciation Month, and I want to take a moment to recognize and thank our incredible board of directors. These dedicated volunteers work tirelessly to ensure our district remains an excellent place for students, staff, and families. Their leadership and commitment to our community are truly inspiring.

Thank you for being part of our shared journey. Together, we're building a brighter future for all Lake Stevens students.

With gratitude,



Dr. Mary Templeton
Superintendent



HAVE YOU SEEN

DID YOU KNOW? with Dr. T.

Our weekly video series, **Did You Know? With Dr. T.**, is in full swing! Each episode features Dr. Templeton diving into a new topic—offering insights into our district and sharing her vision for the future.

If you haven't tuned in yet, check it out on our Vimeo channel! Stay connected and see the amazing things happening in our schools and community. Don't miss out—watch today!



We appreciate our School Board!

January is School Board Appreciation Month—a time to recognize the dedicated members of our Board of Directors who serve as the backbone of our school district. These elected leaders represent our community, working hand-in-hand with Dr. Mary Templeton, our superintendent, to guide the district's mission and vision and ensure the success of our Foundation for Excellence.

In addition to overseeing policies and procedures, the Board is responsible for adopting the district's annual budget and making decisions that impact the education and well-being of every student in our schools.

Our school board members are true servant leaders, giving generously of their time and talents to support students, staff, and families. This month, we extend our heartfelt thanks for their service and commitment to our schools and community.

Stay connected and get involved!

We invite you to join us for our Board of Directors meetings—whether in-person or online. These meetings are an excellent way to stay informed about district decisions and share your voice. Meeting details, including agendas, minutes, links to virtual access, and recordings of previous meetings can be found on our website:



The Lake Stevens School District Board of Directors, from left: David Iseminger, Mari Taylor, Vildan Kirby, Nina Hanson and Paul Lund.

Did you know that you can
easily translate the Lake Stevens
School District website?



**Stay informed about
what's happening
in our schools!**

The free LSSD mobile app
provides easy access to news,
calendars, notifications and
lunch menus. Search "Lake
Stevens School District" on
the App Store or Google
Play.



IMPORTANT DATES

January 2025

24	End of first semester
27	No school, Learning Improvement Day for staff

February 2025

14	No school
17	Presidents Day, no school

March 2025

3-6	P-5 Family Conferences; 2.5 hour early release for K-5, Monday through Thursday
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April 2025

7-11	Spring Break, no school
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May 2025

26	Memorial Day, no school
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June 2025

10	Graduation
12	Last day of Early Learning Center
16	Last day of school, 2.5 hour early release*
17	Snow make-up day, if needed
19	Juneteenth, schools and offices closed

SUPERINTENDENT
Mary Templeton, Ed.D.

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Jonathan Sulzbach

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Mari Taylor, President • David Iseminger, Vice President • Paul Lund, Director • Dr. Nina Kim Hanson & Vildan Kirby, Co-Legislative Representatives

In accordance with RCW 49.60, the Lake Stevens School District does not discriminate in employment and schools. The Lake Stevens 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, creed, 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 Lake Stevens School District, 12309 22nd St. NE, Lake Stevens, WA 98258, Attention: Title IX and Civil Rights Coordinator, John Balmer, (425) 335-1500, John_Balmer@lkstevens.wednet.edu or ADA Compliance Coordinator and Section 504 Compliance Coordinator, Miriam Tencate, (425) 335-1500, Miriam_Tencate@lkstevens.wednet.edu.